■ Metro / A15

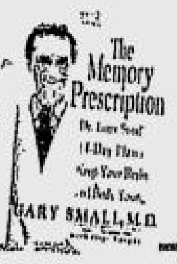
Fireworks by Bay, aerials to light up metro skies

■ Across / A13

Scandal at presidential mansion

■ Lifestyle / C1

Better than tying a string 'round your finger



■ Business / B1

Ecozone investments surged 62% in 2004

■ World / A7

Yushchenko wins Ukraine polls

Cops told: Speak Tagalog when dealing with media

KUNG CARABAO ENGLISH RIN LANG, MAG-TAGALOG NA KAYO!

By Christian Esguerra

IF YOUR English isn't spotless, go ahead—speak Tagalog.

In media interviews, "what's important is to communicate clearly and

COPS TOLD/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, December 28, 2004 ★★★ 40 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 20 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Joma warns 2 Akbayan execs they face CPP probe

JOSE Maria Sison, self-exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, warned yesterday two officials of the party-list group Akbayan that they could be investigated by the rebel movement should someone file "criminal complaints" against them.

Sison's warning was contained in a second statement he issued in as

JOMA/ A4

Estrada arrives in HK for knee surgery

By Armand N. Nocum

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada arrived at the Hong Kong Adventist Hospital at around 7 last night accompanied by his wife and his police escorts.

"I am feeling well," Agence France Presse quoted Estrada as saying while seated on a wheelchair. Jeremy Low, spokesperson for the private hospital, which Estrada said had been recommended by "a friend," said doctors would conduct tests on him before setting the date for his knee surgery.

Estrada took off for Hong Kong blowing kisses to relatives and members of his former Cabinet and promising that he would come back to fight the Arroyo administration's "reign of corruption and mismanagement."

"Upon my return. I will organize a strong opposition party. The country needs a strong opposition," the ousted President said at a press briefing at the Centennial Airport's Presidential Lounge.

Minutes before Estrada arrived at the airport, Sen. Luisa Ejercito-Estrada told reporters that it would not be like her husband to live as a fugitive abroad.

"In past foreign trips, five days is already too long for him to remain out of the country," she said, adding that it was actually Estrada's family and supporters who were apprehensive that he would not be allowed to return.

Estrada and his party—which in-

ESTRADA/ A5

ESTRADA waves to supporters before boarding a flight to Hong Kong. The ousted President vows to come back and lead fight against the Arroyo administration. ROGER MARGALLO

Tsunami toll hits 22,000

Countless bodies piled up on coastlines of South Asia

PARENTS grieve over the body of their little boy in Tamil Nadu, India. AP

RP prone to tsunamis, says Phivolcs

By Norman Bordadora, Tonette Orejas and Anthony S. Allada

TWO MILD earthquakes caused by the movements of two separate trenches shook the Philippines just before dawn yesterday, reminding the country that it is prone to tsunamis, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said yesterday.

The two earthquakes were

RP PRONE/ A6

Killer waves killed 4,000 in South in '76

THE TERRIBLE tidal waves that slammed into coastlines across Asia on Sunday have brought back memories of the tsunami that ravaged parts of Mindanao and left more than 4,000 dead shortly after midnight of Aug. 17, 1976.

The tsunami occurred after an earthquake, generated by the Cotabato Trench and measuring

KILLER/ A4

HUNDREDS of bodies of tsunami victims are lined up on a square in the Indonesian city of Banda Aceh Monday. Reuters said soldiers searched for bodies on treetops, families wept over their dead on beaches and rescuers scoured coral isles for missing tourists. REUTERS

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Rescuers piled up bodies on Monday along the tropical coasts of southern Asia a day after the biggest quake in four decades sent tidal waves crashing into nine countries. The death toll jumped to more than 22,000 people—more than half of them in Sri Lanka.

The tally was expected to rise further, with thousands still missing, officials said. Millions were left homeless, and officials feared the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera.

The six-meter-high (20-foot-high) waves smashed into seaside towns and resorts, sweeping away boats, homes, fishermen and holidaymakers, including a grandson of Thailand's king and scores of foreigners on Christmas vacations. The torrents pulled a 6-month-old Australian baby from her father's arms in the Thai island resort of Phuket.

The death toll increased steadily as authorities sorted out the far-flung disaster caused by Sunday's 9.0-magnitude earthquake under the Indian Ocean near the Indonesian island of Sumatra. Offers of aid poured in from around the globe, as troops in the region struggled to deliver urgently needed aid to afflicted areas.

Officials in Indonesia and Thailand conceded that public warnings that could have saved lives in places further from the quake site were never issued or were too little, too late.

But governments insisted they couldn't have known the true danger because there was no interna-

TSUNAMI/ A6

World scrambles to help victims

PARIS—The first shipments of foreign aid were on their way Monday to Asian countries devastated by tidal waves spawned by a massive earthquake that killed more than 17,000 people as Western capitals and international agencies swung into action.

Many of the countries which pledged cash and assistance to India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, the Maldives and Thailand had themselves lost citizens swept away as they spent the holidays in beach resorts. Most of the victims, however, were poor fishermen living along the shores of the Indian Ocean.

Two giant Russian Il-76 planes left Moscow for Sri Lanka early on Monday, carrying 25 tons of

WORLD/ A6

Int'l warning system could have saved lives—scientists

DENVER—The catastrophic death toll in Asia caused by a massive tsunami might have been reduced had India and Sri Lanka been part of an international warning system designed to warn coastal communities about potentially deadly waves, scientists say.

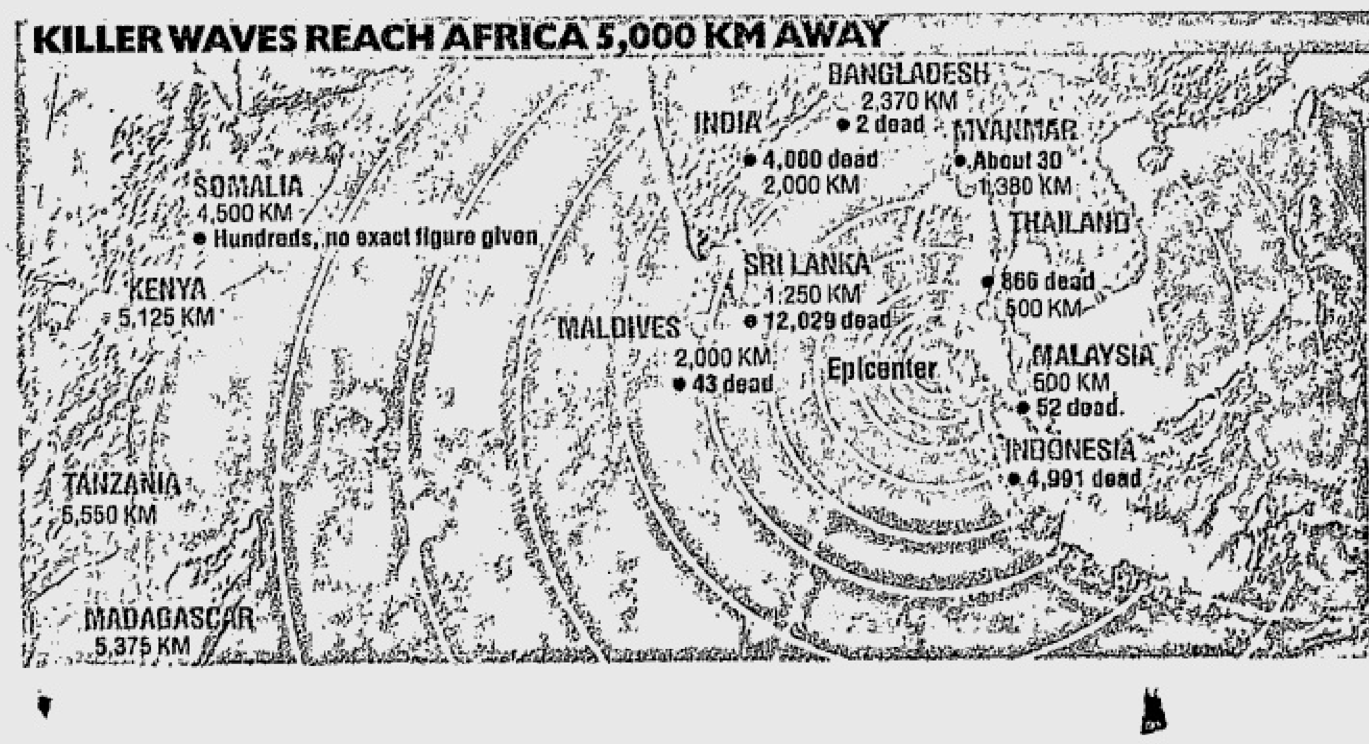
Thousands of people in India and Sri Lanka were killed after being hit by walls of water triggered by a tremendous earthquake early Sunday off Sumatra.

The warning system is designed to alert nations that potentially destructive waves may hit their coastlines within three to 14 hours. Scientists said seismic networks recorded Sunday's massive earthquake, but without wave sensors in the region, there was no way to determine the direction a tsunami would travel.

A single wave station south of the earthquake's epicenter regis-

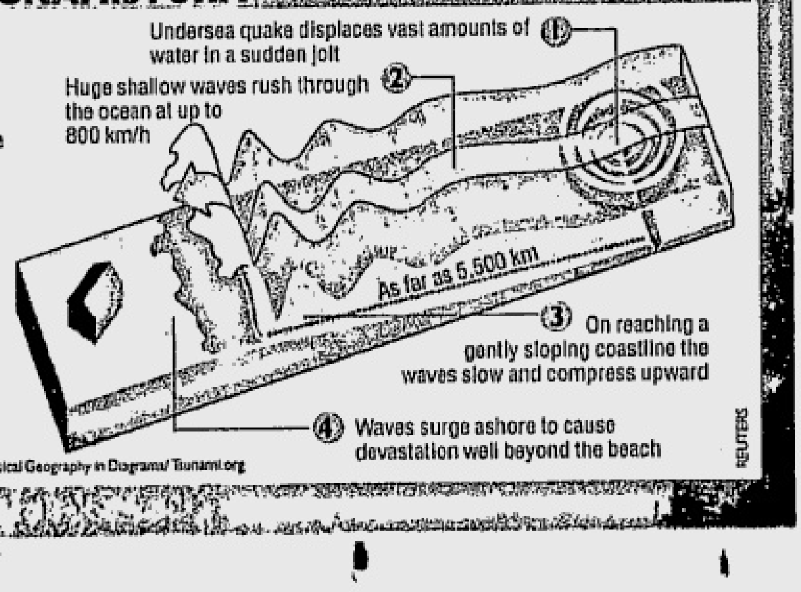
INT'L WARNING/ A6

KILLER WAVES REACH AFRICA 5,000 KM AWAY



HOW TSUNAMIS FORM

Tsunamis occur when an earthquake at sea and shallow coastal waters combine


① Undersea quake displaces vast amounts of water in a sudden jolt
② Huge shallow waves rush through the ocean at up to 800 km/h
As far as 5,500 km
③ On reaching a gently sloping coastline the waves slow and compress upward
④ Waves surge ashore to cause devastation well beyond the beach

Source: Longman - Physical Geography in Diagrams/ Tsunami.org

REUTERS

INQUIRERGRAPHIC: L.A. Villarolta / E Sambo

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/12/28/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

It's the tax collection, stupid

By Carlito Pablo

IT'S TAX collection, not new taxes, stupid.

That in effect is the gist of a 15-page paper entitled "The Looming Fiscal Crisis: It Shouldn't Be That Taxing" in the face of the dogged determination by Malacañang to compel Congress to pass eight new revenue measures, ostensibly to avert a credit downgrade for the country.

The paper was prepared by Rodolfo Vicerra, director general of the House of Representatives' think-tank Congressional Planning and Budget Department.

"Too much focus on the enactment of new taxes may be misplaced," the paper said. "The main cause of the problem is poor tax collection performance."

The paper noted that "enacting more new taxes does not squarely address the issue."

"The paper suggests that, despite the flaws of the current tax structure (and without diminishing the importance of correcting them), revenues can and will dramatically increase with some strategic executive action in the area of tax administration," it argued.

The paper asserted that "in terms of orders of magnitude, the new tax laws are merely symbolic gestures compared to addressing just the tax administration issues," three of which it identified.

First is the "severe lack of information." It explained it as thus: "The sheer lack of a solid base of tax data and information combines with the much-vaunted complexity of the tax system to give the revenue bureaucracies a unique excuse for their low collection performance."

Second is the "accountability problem." Simply put: "The poor level of collection performance also suggests a less than optimal application of management norms."

"It may also be an indication of lack of will, if not the lack of time on the part of a succession of revenue administrators, to impose effective sanctions and control measures," the paper added.

Third is "weak enforcement." The paper explained: "The high tax gaps ... signify a high level of tax evasion and avoidance among businessmen, professionals and corporate taxpayers."

"The non-filing of income tax returns is another manifestation of lack of compliance to tax laws. These also reflect the insufficiency of effort in the area of enforcement," the paper said.

Citing an example, the paper noted as "disturbing that among businessmen and professionals, an average of P26.7 billion is uncollected each year."

"Corporations are also to blame for an even bigger gap of P54.1 billion a year," the paper also said.

The paper suggested a multi-pronged strategy to bridge the information, accountability and tax enforcement gaps.

These include:

- The generation of more data and information through a "mid-decade socio-economic (cum tax) census" as a tax administration-enhancing program.
- The "outsourcing" of some important activities by revenue bureaus like the investigation and litigation of cases, database processing and administration, due diligence checks, tax mapping and post-audit review.
- The setting up of better feedback mechanisms through Commission on Audit reviews of assessments made by revenue agencies; joint government and private sector monitoring of grants of incentives; and a "more active congressional oversight" to ensure compliance with revenue targets.

The paper noted that the current obsession for new tax measures "seems defeating" as "placing the onus of fiscal deliverance as well as the country's credit rating upon congressional action alone is perhaps uncalled for."

"Executive action, it must be emphasized, has a much faster gestation and could have larger beneficial impact than all the new tax measures combined," the paper said.

"Most of the measures addressed in the area of tax administration are within the powers of the President as well as the heads of the revenue agencies," it also pointed out.

"Significant moves on their part must be recognized and should have direct bearing on the country's credit standing," the paper said.

Senate leaders support Palace plan

By Michael Lim Ubac

LEADERS of the Senate majority and minority blocs are not opposed to the Malacañang plan to cut short Congress' Christmas break to speed up deliberations on the 2005 national budget as well as the passage of other tax measures.

"I believe we are wasting so much man-hours in idle vacations that consume but don't produce," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

But he added: "I don't have to agree with Malacañang with this reply."

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo had "made casuals and daily workers hungry by fixing so many holidays."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, on the other hand, said he had no objection to resuming the session earlier than Jan. 10.

He said a resumption of the session on Jan. 3 would give lawmakers "five days more to resume debates on the Lateral Attrition measure."

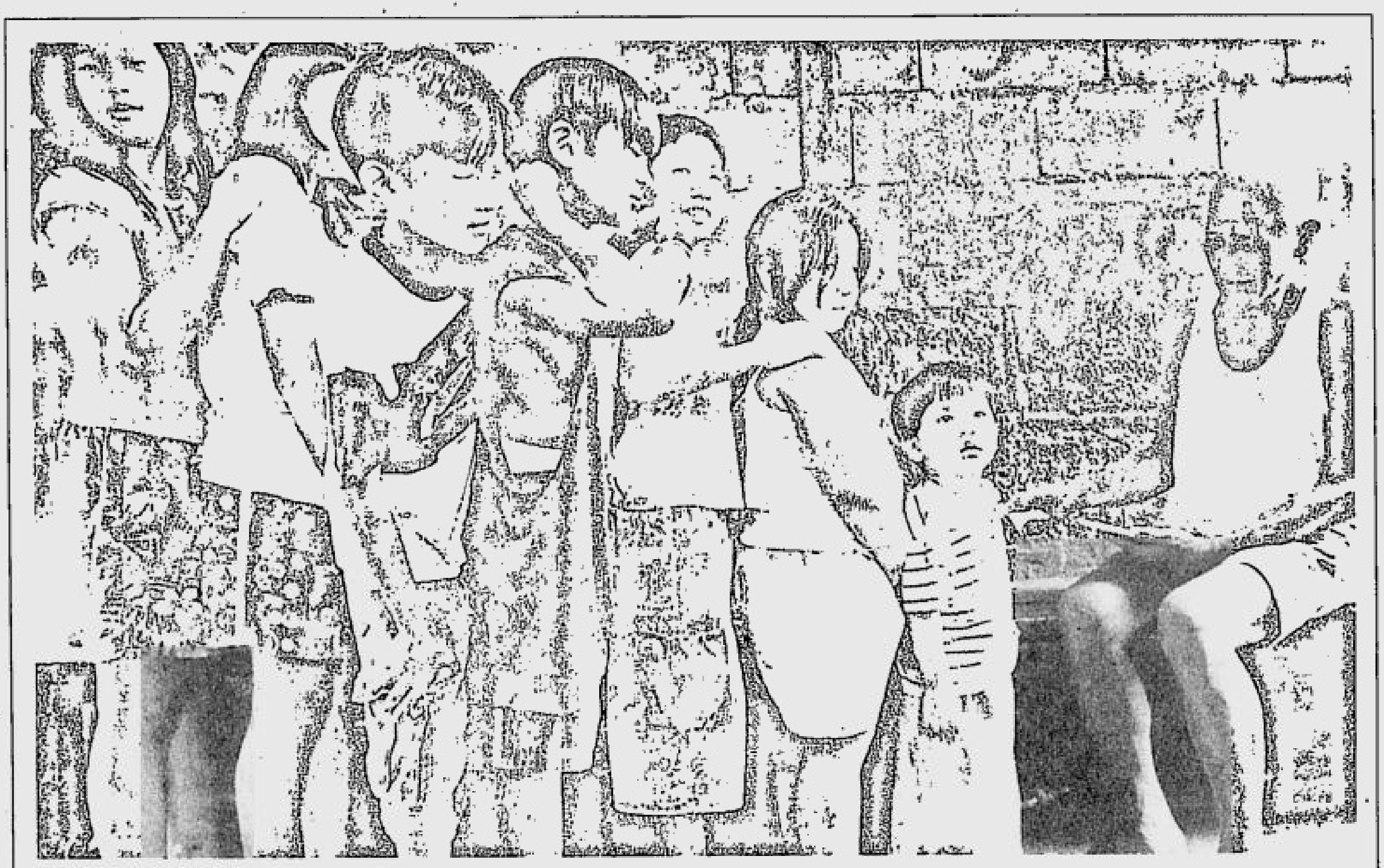
"And we can wrap up committee hearings on amendments to the value-added tax law," he said.

Pangilinan, however, said these measures could be passed only after Jan. 30, at the earliest. "We cannot enact tax measures forwarded to us by the House of Representatives within a week or two after receipt. We need time to evaluate the full impact of each measure, and two weeks is just not enough," he said.

A case in point is the "sin" tax measure.

"If we simply adopted the House version in order to speed up passage, we would have accepted a projected P7-billion tax take instead of the P16.5 billion we now expect to raise, as proposed by the Senate version," Pangilinan said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had earlier said the Palace was not ruling out calling for an early special session after New Year's Day just to get the administration tax reforms back on track. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*



MANO PO, LOLO
Children in a home in Malabon line up, from youngest to oldest, to receive their Christmas gift from their doting grandfather. ERIK ARAZAS

CAMP CRAME SHOOTOUT

Suspected Abu shot dead after killing cop

By Christian V. Esguerra

A SUSPECTED Abu Sayyaf terrorist was gunned down last night inside a maximum security compound in Camp Crame after he grabbed the gun of a policeman and killed him, the Philippine National Police said.

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil identifed the suspected terrorist as Allan Balagnatan who was earlier arrested in Valenzuela City in connection with the attempted bombing of a bus in Manila on Dec. 24.

Bataoil said Balagnatan attempted to bolt the maximum security compound in Camp Crame where Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi escaped last year.

According to Bataoil, Balagnatan snatched the gun of PO1 Rolando Nolasco and shot him five times on the ground floor of the Intelligence Group compound at around 7 p.m. Nolasco died on the spot.

Balagnatan was gunned down by policemen before he could hold hostage another officer in his attempt to escape, Bataoil said.

It was not clear how Balagnatan was able to grab a gun inside the heavily secured facility where he was undergoing interrogation at the Foreign Intelligence and Liaison Office.

Balagnatan was one of four suspected terrorists earlier arrested by the PNP. According to Bataoil, all four are believed to have connections with the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the Southeast Asian affiliate of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Last night's incident came more than a year after Al-Ghozi, a top-level JI operative, and two other Abu detainees walked out of the same compound on July 14. Al-Ghozi was later killed.

Months later, another Abu operative nearly bolted the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's detention facility, also located in Camp Crame. He killed at least two policemen before he was gunned down.

Gov't austerity program paying off, says Boncodin

MALACAÑANG'S austerity program is starting to pay dividends as it expects to have a lower-than-expected budget deficit this year arising from savings from canceled foreign trips, salary cuts and lower utility and transport bills.

"I believe this is the most frugal spending year of the government because of the cost-cutting measures we initiated," said Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, in an interview with dzRB radio.

Based on the Department of Budget and Management's estimates, Boncodin said the government was likely to keep below the full-year budget deficit target of P197.8 billion.

The budget deficit was pegged at P160.2 billion in the first 11 months this year.

Boncodin credited the government employees for abiding by the cost-cutting measures set by President Macapagal-Arroyo in the third quarter this year in response to warnings by economists and lawmakers that the government was in the midst of a fiscal crisis.

Gil Cabacungan Jr.

Gov't to block turnover of Journal to Kokoy group

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE GOVERNMENT would formally block this week the turnover of the formerly sequestered Philippine Journalists Inc. (PJI) to its former owners who are identified with Marcos' brother-in-law Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, on behalf of the Privatization Management Office, would ask the Supreme Court to reverse its Dec. 14 ruling allowing former majority stockholders led by Rosario Olivares to regain PJI by paying the P33.36 million balance of their government loan.

"It is respectfully prayed of this honorable court that the order dated Dec. 14, 2004 be recalled and set aside for being violative of the laws, rules and regulations and of the Constitutional guarantee of due process," read the PCGG's motion which would be filed tomorrow.

PCGG Commissioner William Dichoso and special legal counsel Cesario Del Rosario signed the motion.

In its motion, the PCGG asserted that Olivares and her group's $1.7-million loan from the government-owned Development Bank of the Philippines back in 1977 was highly irregular.

"Romualdez used the influence of the dictator Marcos to obtain a huge dollar loan with only the shares of stocks of some few stockholders of an under-capitalized corporation as collateral," said the PCGG.

It added that the Filipino people have carried the burden of paying for the huge interest of those dollar loans which matured after martial law.

When Marcos was ousted in 1986, the PCGG sequestered PJI and other suspected ill-gotten assets of Romualdez. PJI shares of stocks have since been turned over to the PMO (formerly the Asset Privatization Trust.)

Aware that the Dec. 14 order is considered final, the PCGG argued that the SC "for the nth time suspended its rules" when it allowed Olivares to file a second motion for reconsideration in the guise of an "omnibus motion."

"It is therefore not asking too much if the same favor is asked for, in the name of and furtherance of justice and fair play, or what it fondly terms as 'due process of law,'" the PCGG said.

In its 14-page "manifestation with motion for clarification," the PCGG reminded the SC that only the PMO has the authority to determine the worth of assets to be sold back to delinquent borrowers; and that Olivares and group are no longer the listed holders of PJI stock certificates, as ruled by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Can this honorable court feel free to violate the Corporation Code by simply ordering the APT/PMO to turn over the management and control of PJI without first holding a stockholders meeting on Feb. 4, 2005 for the purpose of electing a new set of officers as provided in the by-laws?" the PCGG asked.

The PCGG also complained about the "arbitrary and speedy" issuance of a writ of execution on Dec. 20, which allowed Olivares' representative, Augusto Villanueva, to take control of PJI.

It said the Office of the Solicitor General filed its opposition to the writ of execution on time, as ordered by the SC Dec. 14 ruling.

According to the OSG, the recomputed loan balance of P33.36 million that was reached by the SC after it condoned penalties and other additional interests covers the period until March 13, 2003 only.

The OSG computed PJI's outstanding obligations at P676.72 million.

The PCGG insisted that the condonation was a "gross violation of the law which provides that condonation of an obligation of over P50 million can only be validly done upon recommendation of the President with the approval of Congress."

Malacañang sees light in gloomy outlook

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG is taking on the gloomy outlook by Filipinos next year as a "challenge" to further undertake reforms to improve the economy, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"We accept and understand the prevailing sentiments on the economy," said Bunye after the latest survey by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed consumer confidence dropping sharply this quarter due to high prices of basic goods and low income.

The same BSP survey also showed consumer outlook in the next 12 months worsening with more layoffs, higher inflation and weaker peso.

"We consider this as a challenge to work harder on all fronts to shore up confidence, increase investments, create jobs and improve lives," said Bunye.

The BSP survey reflects the spreading misery among Filipinos especially this Christmas season. Fewer Filipinos expect to have a merry time this year compared to past Christmases, according to a survey by the Social Weather Stations.

Philhealth plans drug vouchers

By Blanche S. Rivera

MEMBERS of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth) could get a belated Christmas gift if the agency pushes through with its plan to issue vouchers for free medicine.

Philhealth president Francisco Duque III said the health insurance agency is studying the feasibility of releasing drug vouchers to members in selected areas in February.

The vouchers would entitle Philhealth members to free medicine worth around P600 per year, depending on available funds.

"Some members complain that Philhealth offers in-patient care only. Through drug vouchers, we can give out-patient care without members being hospitalized," Duque said in an earlier meeting with the press.

He added that the vouchers would guarantee that members would get quality generic drugs listed under the Philippine National Drug Formulary.

The Philhealth would accredit drugstores all over the country to accept the vouchers.

Duque said he would coordinate with the Bureau of Food and Drugs and the Department of Health to determine which drugs would be covered by the vouchers.

An actuarial study done by the Philhealth estimated that the drug voucher program would require a budget of P600 million to P1.2 billion annually.

We're not a Red front organization, says Pamalakaya

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The militant Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas yesterday slammed Jesuit priest Romeo Intengan for branding the group a front organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said Intengan "almost endorsed the political persecution and assassination of Pamalakaya with his irresponsible statement calling the group a front organization for the CPP."

The word war between Pamalakaya and Intengan stemmed from the organization's call to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to stop acting as emissaries of the government in its reconciliation efforts.

Pamalakaya the other day called CBCP president Fernando Capalla and Intengan "apologists" for the administration by promoting what it described a "fake and immoral" national reconciliation framework.

Intengan, on the other hand, said it was understandable that Pamalakaya would set aside the reconciliation call of the Palace. "They believe in armed struggle, they're linked with the NPA (New People's Army," Intengan said in a phone interview the other day. "For people on that side of the political spectrum, dissension makes it easier to seize power."

Pamalakaya said, however, that such statement had made them vulnerable to attacks.

"Fr. Intengan and the Jesuit bloc in the Roman Catholic community had given the military the license to go against militant and leftist groups," Hicap said.

He added that Catholic leaders "should listen to the gospel of the oppressed and not of the corrupt and criminal."

The militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, an organization allied to Pamalakaya, appealed to the CBCP and Intengan to engage in a healthy principled debate, rather than resort to the usual Red-baiting tactic.

"Now that Fr. Intengan has called our allied organization Pamalakaya as a Red front, the lives and limbs of their leaders and members are put in peril," said Willy Marbella, KMP spokesperson.

Intengan said they heeded the call of Malacañang for reconciliation because the "appeal had sense."

According to Intengan, who drafted the national reconciliation framework which Capalla presented to the Cabinet on Sept. 21, he used several papers by the Vatican, Caritas, the International Center for Transitional Justice, among others, as a guide for the framework.

Military belittles NPA threat

By Alcuin Papa

THE MILITARY yesterday belittled the threat by communist rebels to intensify their offensives against government forces beginning next year.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, said the declaration of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, which celebrated its 36th anniversary on Dec. 26, is "a desperate move."

"It's a desperate move to catch much needed attention and in trying to win back its fast dwindling mass base support and an attempt to project a position of strength of its leaders," Yano said yesterday in a statement.

Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command, also said in a statement yesterday that the CPP-NPA "has nothing to celebrate" owing to "its continuing acts of violence against the people."

"What are they celebrating when they are very much anti-people? What feat of achievements have they done in committing senseless violence on the very people they are supposed to serve?" Broso asked.

A large part of the NPA's operations is centered in the Southern Luzon area.

The CPP-NPA's declaration was manifested in a statement published on the occasion of its anniversary.

In its statement, the CPP-NPA reiterated its intent to seize power and called on its followers to exploit popular discontent to topple the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Saying the communist movement was growing in size, the CPP said its armed wing the NPA was "now trying to develop the ability to make and use weapons that the Iraqi resistance is now using."

These weapons include rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, mortars "and other close range weapons."

"The revolutionary forces must employ all forms of struggle in ousting the Arroyo regime and accumulating strength thereby," the CPP said.

The 8,000-strong CPP-NPA has been fighting the longest running insurgency in Asia and has largely relied on firearms and weapons stolen from the military, police and civilians, improvised land mines and other crude explosives.

The CPP and its legal political front the National Democratic Front called off peace talks with the government last August and accused Ms Arroyo and her officials of not doing enough to persuade the United States and other Western countries to take the communist group out of these governments' list of international terrorists organizations.

NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY

MASKED protesters hold lightning rally in Manila Sunday to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

JESS YUSON

'You want to be a general, get Commander Putol'

By Alcuin Papa

GET COMMANDER Putol if you want to be a general.

This was the advice of Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu to Col. Nehemias Pajarito, commander of the Philippine Army's 104th Brigade, which is pursuing the Abu Sayyaf Group in Sulu, AFP Public Information Office chief Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said yesterday.

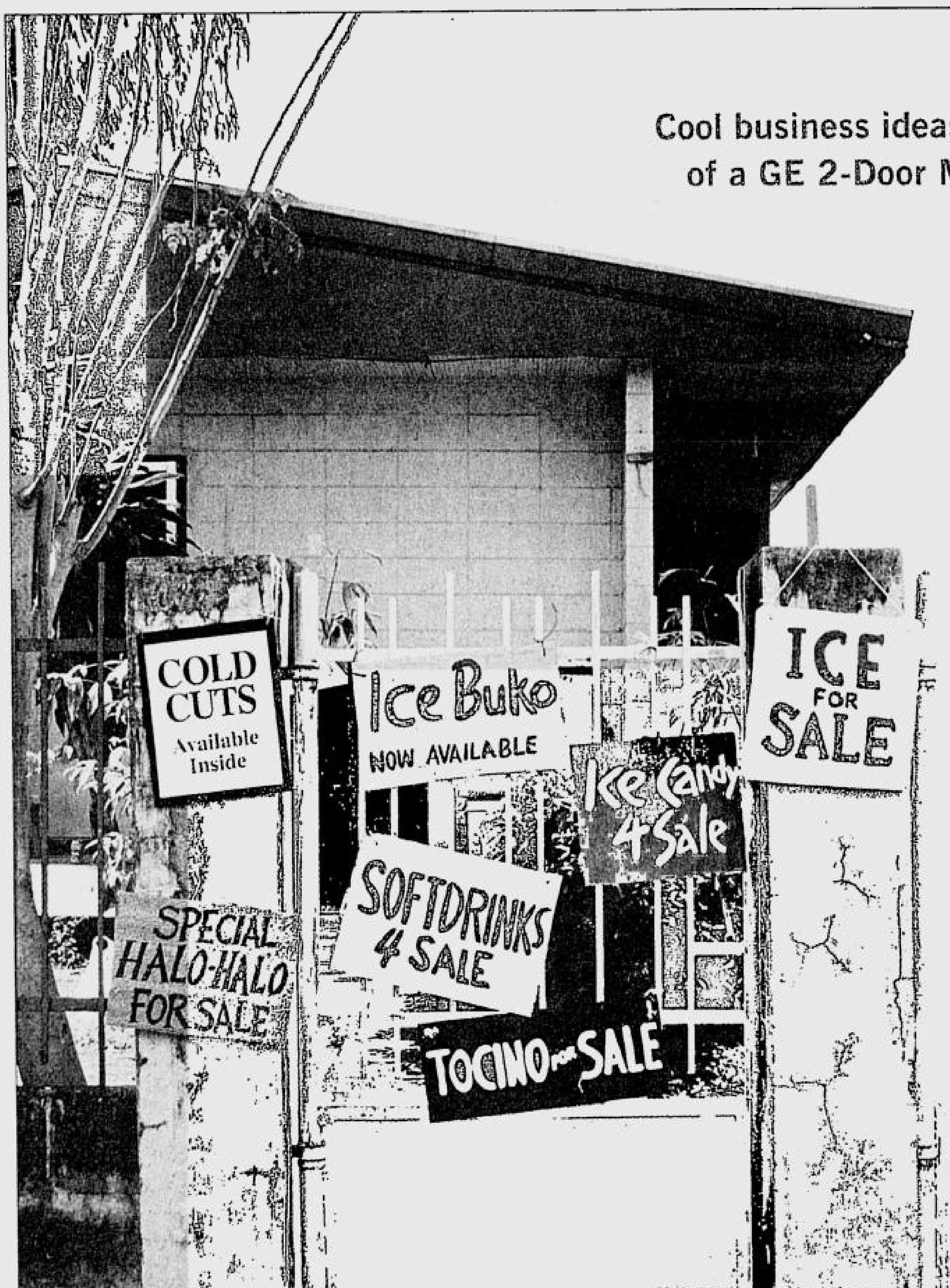
Abu is referring to ASG leader Radilon Sahiron, who goes by the nickname Commander Putol. Sahiron's right arm was amputated when it was shattered by a bullet in a firefight when he was a Moro National Liberation Front fighter in the 1970s.

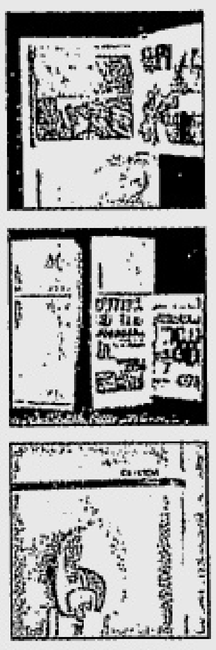
"If you (Pajarito) want to be brigadier general tomorrow, then get Putol today," Abu told Pajarito during the general's visit yesterday to the headquarters of the 104th Brigade in Busbos, Jolo.

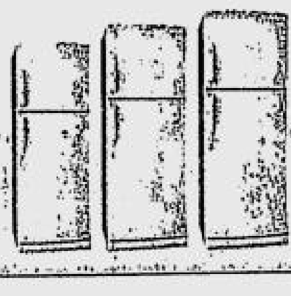
Aside from Sahiron, Pascual said Abu's "tall order" to Pajarito and Brig. Gen. Agustin Demaala, commander of Task Force Comet, is to capture "Dr. Abu Pula," whose real name is Gumbahali Abu Jumdail. Task Force Comet is the elite AFP force tasked to go after the Abu Sayyaf.

Both Sahiron and Jumdail carry a P5-million prize on their heads for their capture. The two were involved in the April 2000 abduction of 21 foreign tourists from the Sipadan resort in Malaysia.

Intelligence reports say Sahiron and Jumdail command around 400 men operating in the Sulu area.







Cool business ideas. FREE with every purchase of a GE 2-Door Manual Defrost Refrigerator.

With it's powerful freezing capacity, the GE 2-Door Manual Defrost Refrigerator makes it easy to start a business right out of your home. Sell frozen meats, fish, or chicken. Corner the neighborhood ice candy market. Be the village halo-halo tycoon. With its ability to reach temperatures as low as *-31, the GE 2-Door Manual Defrost isn't just another refrigerator. It's a really cool business partner.

Also available with built-in water dispenser.

GE Appliances
geappliances-philippines.com

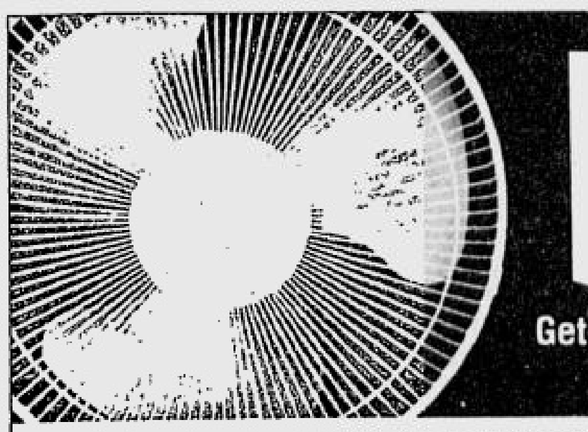
GE imagination at work

CALL (02) 631-8282 Shangri-La,(02) 633-9953 Megamall, (02) 687-1566 Cybermall-Eastwood,
NOW (02) 815-8875 MC Home Depot-Fort Bonifacio, (02) 887-0075 Glorietta 4.
Available at leading appliance stores nationwide.

Official Distributor:
CYA Industries Incorporated

* With a 10 kg. load of ice water tested in a GMV130BANR for 1 day.
* Frequent opening of door/s as well as amount and type of load may affect the unit's performance.
* At thermostat setting #7.

2-Door Manual Defrost Refs available in 7 cu. ft., 10 cu. ft. & 13 cu. ft.



FANTASTIC!

Get a free stand fan worth P1,495.00 from GE with every purchase of any of the selected GE appliances. Promo valid until December 31, 2004 only.

Offer applies to purchase of any of the following selected GE appliances: window type airconditioners, single-door refs, 2- door direct cool refs, asian topmount, stainless steel topmount and bottom mount refs and chest freezers. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5302 Series of 2004.

Joma warns 2 Akbayan execs they face CPP probe

From page A1

many days in reaction to the open letter to him by UP Prof. Walden Bello and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales on Dec. 26., the CPP's 36th anniversary.

Sison said it was only yesterday that he received the full text of the open letter.

Pointing out the militarist mind-set of the armed units of the CPP, the two Akbayan leaders asked Sison whether they and the others, who were identified as counterrevolutionaries in the Dec. 7 issue of the CPP publication Ang Bayan would be killed one by one.

Bello, Akbayan chair emeritus, and Rosales claimed that they were on the "hit list" of the CPP because they were included in the Ang Bayan diagram of individuals and organizations and their links to Troskyites and social democrats abroad.

"The letter writers, Walden Bello and Etta Rosales, can talk and write as much as they want against the CPP and other revolutionary forces. And they can be sure that these targets of their malice will always respect their right of free speech and will answer with the facts and well-reasoned arguments in order to win the ideological and political struggle through debate," Sison said in the second statement which, according to him, answered certain false claims not covered in a report of the INQUIRER on the letter on Monday.

Sison, however, warned the two of possible retaliation from the CPP.

"But it is another matter if for example there is a criminal complaint with sufficient evidence that Bello is receiving imperialist funds not only for holding conferences and issuing publications but also for organizing groups dedicated to intelligence and psywar for the imperialists against the patriotic and progressive forces," said Sison, who is now based in The Netherlands.

Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, made it clear that it was also another matter if a criminal complaint was filed against Rosales "for stealing funds from her congressional committee, covering up human rights violations or conniving with Imee Marcos in blocking the indemnification of the winning plaintiffs in the US court judgment against the Marcos estate."

Rosales chairs the committee on human rights in the House of Representatives.

Sison said the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law that the Philippine government and the NDF had agreed on "provides for the NDF and the revolutionary forces and people it represents to arrest suspected violators of human rights and international humanitarian law, investigate them and, if the evidence warrants, to prosecute and try them."

Paramilitary units

Sison also warned Akbayan and related groups that "the revolutionary forces will not allow them to use imperialist funds to intrude into the territory of the revolutionary government, undermine the people's government and use the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police and official and unofficial paramilitary units against the people and the people's army in (Quezon) Bondoc Peninsula and certain parts of Mindoro and Mindanao."

In his first statement, Sison assured Bello and Rosales that the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, were not maintaining a hit list of counterrevolutionaries.

Sison said the diagram was nothing more than a presentation of the fragmentation of pseudo-revolutionary petty bourgeois grouplets in the Philippines and their connection mainly with various Troskyite factions abroad.

But he accused the two Akbayan leaders of assisting the United States in maligning and criminalizing him and setting him up for physical attacks by the Central Intelligence Agency and sabotaging the peace negotiations between the Philippines and the NDF.

Ocampo on Rosales

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former NDF negotiator, had practically assured Rosales that she was not on any communist hit list, according to accounts by the two.

But Ocampo, according to the separate accounts, was at best vague about the supposed threat to the life of Akbayan chair Ric Reyes.

In a phone interview, Rosales recounted that sometime late November or early December, she approached Ocampo during a break at a committee hearing in the House and inquired if she was on the NPA hit list. "I don't think so," Rosales recalled Ocampo's response.

This response was corroborated by Ocampo in a separate phone interview.

Rosales then asked if Reyes, whom Sison had accused of collaborating with government security forces in the anti-insurgency campaign, was on the list. "Satur was quiet. I told him then that I would construe his silence as a virtual confirmation that Ric was on the hit list," Rosales said.

Ringleaders

Ocampo had a slightly different account.

He recalled having simply told Rosales that Reyes had been identified by the CPP as one of the "ringleaders" of the so-called rejectionist factions that bolted the CPP in the early 1990s.

Ocampo said the Ang Bayan diagram was merely an identification of personalities with ideological and political differences with the CPP.

"They are not targets for elimination. The differences are on the level of ideology and politics, which can be subject to debate among the parties," Ocampo said.

Asked if the fears expressed by Rosales and Bello were well-founded, Ocampo said: "No."

In his second statement, Sison belied the claim of Bello and Rosales that those who dropped out of the armed struggle were targeted for killing just for dropping out.

The CPP constitution guarantees to every party member the right to voluntarily enter or leave the organization, according to Sison.

Armed struggle

"Leaving the CPP is not a criminal offense that is subject to administrative disciplinary action by the CPP and to judgment by the people's court or court-martial. There has to be prima facie evidence for a criminal offense for the people's court or court-martial to issue a warrant of arrest for the NPA to carry out," he said.

He branded as untrue the claim of Bello and Rosales that the CPP looked at the armed struggle as the principal form of struggle and all other forms of struggle as inferior.

"The pseudo-revolutionaries and reformists should not imagine that they are more successful than the national democratic movement in various forms of legal struggle. The CPP has always considered both the legal and the armed forms of struggle necessary and helpful to each other," he said.

He said it was wrong for Bello and Rosales to compare the NPA with the paramilitary units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"The letter writers try to put down the NPA. They are indeed good citizens of the reactionary state. The AFP and PNP regulars and their paramilitary adjuncts commit the grossest human rights violations on the widest scale. These are well documented," Sison said.

He said that if Bello, Rosales and Akbayan had complaints against the revolutionary movement they should submit them to the Joint Monitoring Committee of the NDF.

"But shotgun allegations should be avoided," Sison said. "Unless their real exclusive intention is merely to demonize me and set me up for physical attack in line with the 'terrorist' labeling done by the US and other governments." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Carlito Pablo in Manila*

LGUs warned on threats of tsunamis

By Volt Contreras

LOCAL government units and real estate developers particularly in coastal areas should take precautionary steps to mitigate the impact of tsunamis, since practically all of the country's shorelines are "prone" to these giant killer waves, the country's chief geologist yesterday said.

"LGUs should find out elevated sites where people can go and map out routes to these areas. Tsunami hazards should be identified in land use (policies) and should be considered in the planning of every (construction) project we do in the country," said Rene Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

"We've had many tsunamis in the past," he said, the most destructive being that which hit southwestern Mindanao in 1976 and left about 3,700 dead.

Former Philvolcs chief Raymundo Punongbayan called on the public over dzMM to be watchful for "signs" of approaching tsunamis, such as coastal waters inexplicably receding and exposing the sea floor.

The various trenches within the Philippine territory have generated tsunamis in the past, Punongbayan noted.

Solidum said the country would become vulnerable if an earthquake occurs in the Pacific Ocean or if the tremor "is locally generated" by the trenches east and west of the Philippines.

Over at the eastern side runs the Philippine trench, and on the west covered by the South China Sea are the Manila, Negros, Sulu and Cotabato trenches, he said.

A movement in the Manila and Negros trenches can affect coastal areas in Palawan, La Union, the Ilocos provinces and Manila Bay, while the Cotabato trench can affect the waters off the Surigao provinces, according to Punongbayan.

The country may still have several hours to prepare if the quake originates in the Pacific, where tsunami warnings are issued by an international monitoring center based in Hawaii, Solidum said.

But if the quake is locally generated, "we may not have enough lead time," Solidum said.

Prof. Carlo Arcilla of the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Geological Sciences, meanwhile, said volcanic eruptions, even those under water, hardly cause tsunamis.

TWO men look at two cars piled up following a tidal wave that hit Pathong beach in Phuket, Thailand. AFP

Killer waves killed 4,000 in South in '76

From page A1

7.9 on the Richter scale, shook the island with the Moro Gulf as the heart of the shock. It devastated more then 700 kilometers of coastline bordering the Moro Gulf, especially the shores of Pagadian City.

Records of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) indicated that the ocean drew back about 10 minutes after the earthquake and then rushed back to shore and beyond "in three succeeding waves soaring as high as the treetops, according to some reports."

Phivolcs data showed that the height of the tsunami reached 4.5 meters or 14.8 feet.

The mighty waves hit the coastal villages of the Sulu Islands, Zamboanga provinces, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte and Sultan Kudarat.

Eyewitness accounts

The casualty count, as listed by Phivolcs, was tremendous: 3,351 dead, 1,379 missing, 2,227 injured and 43,534 homeless in Region 12 (which covers Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Cotabato City, Lanao del Sur and del Norte); and 1,440 dead, 909 missing, 7,701 injured and 49,848 homeless in Region 9 (which covers Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City, Basilan and Sulu).

The details are etched in the collective memory.

Survivors in Kalamansig and Lebak, Sultan Kudarat, claimed that the waves reached as high as 40 feet.

In Barangay Tibpuan in Lebak, a 40-seat company bus of a logging firm was thrown about 2 kilometers away.

Fr. Pablo Garcia, OMI, then the parish priest of Lebak, led the search-and-rescue team in retrieving about 200 corpses in Tibpuan.

Forty-foot round logs piled along the coastline of Barangay Sta. Clara in Kalamansig were washed away like match sticks.

Six huge waves came in succession, hitting Sta. Clara's residential areas.

Tugboats, logs, motorboats and wooden-hulled passenger vessels littered the Sta. Clara airstrip, which is about a kilometer away from the shoreline.

A fisherman in Sta. Clara recalled that he was unaware that an earthquake had occurred but was surprised that his boat was suddenly bobbing up and down.

He then felt waves push the vessel toward the shoreline.

6 movements

The fisherman and his boat landed at the Sta. Clara airstrip. He sustained minor injuries.

Phivolcs records showed that prior to the earthquake-tsunami double whammy, six earth movements were monitored in the Moro Gulf.

About a month earlier, Zamboanga City experienced two earthquakes, with the Moro Gulf still the epicenter.

The earthquake of Aug. 17, 1976 damaged at least four schools including the Notre Dame University, in Cotabato City, as well as eight hotels, three theater houses and two Catholic churches.

The city's Quirino Bridge, a four-span steel bridge over Rio Grande de Mindanao (with each span measuring 40 meters long), also collapsed.

In Zamboanga City, 14 buildings, including the City Hall and Ateneo de Zamboanga, were damaged by the earthquake. But the city was spared the horrors of the tsunami.

According to Phivolcs, the strategic geographic location of Basilan and Santa Cruz Islands may have prevented the waves from hitting the city.

The seismic network of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) recorded 40 aftershocks. But in Cotabato City, Phivolcs monitored an average of about 140 aftershocks daily. *Reports from Jeffrey M. Tupas and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; PDI Research*

Cops told: Speak Tagalog when dealing with media

From page A1

effectively." This was the advice given by Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil to 115,000 men of the PNP.

This is also one of the pointers in "Santinig," a 45-page handbook released by PNP Director General Edgar Aglipay on how policemen should deal with media and how they could effectively comment on key issues.

The manual is basically a collection of statements which top PNP officials, including former Interior Secretary Jose Lina and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., have issued since 2002.

"The idea is to provide uniformity on things we would say during interviews—from the PNP chief down to the field commanders," said Bataoil, who is also the book's editor.

In the past, field commanders would turn down interviews because, he said, they were afraid their statements would run against the position of the PNP leadership or they just didn't know how to conduct themselves before the media.

Santinig hopes to guide them through the process and even provides some standard answers.

For instance, if a cop is asked about the PNP's position on the entry of gay officers in the police force, he need not stammer and blush. He can turn to Page 28.

"They are welcome in the PNP as long as they can pass all the requirements and the physical training," says the uniform position culled from Aglipay's media interview on Aug. 20.

On destabilization, the standard reply is on Page 26: "We will prevent any threat against the present government. We will be ready to protect the duly constituted authorities."

On terrorism, refer to Page 30: "Terrorism knows no bounds, which is the primary reason it is necessary for everyone to unite against this threat."

The book contains other standard replies—from lifestyle checks at the PNP to the campaign against illegal drugs and kidnapping to the drive against "*kotong* [extortion]" and "*hulidap*" cops.

Hulidap refers to the nefarious practice of some lawmen who arrest innocent people and threaten to file false charges against them unless they give money.

Santinig also contains a chapter on "crisis public relations," which is quite useful since the PNP is a favorite target of criticism and controversy.

In a crisis situation, cops should maintain an "open communication policy," the manual says.

"The best course of action," Bataoil says in the book, "is to keep media fully and promptly informed while the PNP gets background information to put facts into perspective."

Ebdane, then PNP chief, adopted this policy when Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf detainees simply walked out of Camp Crame on July 14, 2003.

He called a press conference and announced the escape, while looking cool under pressure.

In dealing with pesky reporters, the book suggests that cops "keep cool; never ask to see a reporter's story; never argue with a reporter about the value of a story; never flatly refuse information, and never falsify, slant or color an answer."

Officers are also warned against "conflicting messages, revealing body language, vocal intonation, facial expression, suppressed anger, over-justification and overconfidence."

The book warns that reporters watch out for these subtle nuances, more than what the police actually say.

Erap's gone for good, says Chavit

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE STAR witness in the government's plunder case against Joseph Estrada believes that the ousted President is gone for good now that he has managed to leave for Hong Kong.

"*Tuluy-tuloy na yan* (There's no stopping it). He will use all legal remedies to stay there," Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said yesterday at the sidelines of a press conference that he called in Pasig City.

"They will have to force him to come home," Singson said.

Should it come to that, no one should be blamed but those who allowed Estrada to leave—"the Sandiganbayan and the other people concerned," the governor said.

At one point after the press conference, he remarked: "*Ako ang isinusubo nila, tapos magne-negosasyon sila doon* (They make me the front man and then they negotiate a deal behind my back)."

Singson, once a close friend of Estrada's, was instrumental in the latter's ouster in 2001 after a failed impeachment trial.

During the press conference, Singson again stressed that the plunder case against Estrada should be concluded before the ex-President's "wishes are granted."

"They are already letting him go even if the case is not yet finished," the governor said.

He added: "If I were to be followed, to show that we are a strong republic, the case should be finished once and for all. Then we can give him (Estrada) all he asks.

"The government should be firm. It should not give everything that is asked and demanded of it."

Singson said that while he was not objecting to medical treatment for Estrada, genuine reconciliation could not be achieved while the ex-President's case was pending with the anti-graft court.

"The plunder case is supposed to be a show window for graft and corruption," he said. "If even that we cannot finish, how can we talk about graft and corruption?"

Asked to describe his current relations with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Singson said: "It's OK. There has been no difference. I'm not hurt, I'm mad."

He did little to hide his displeasure with Norberto Gonzales, the President's chief of staff.

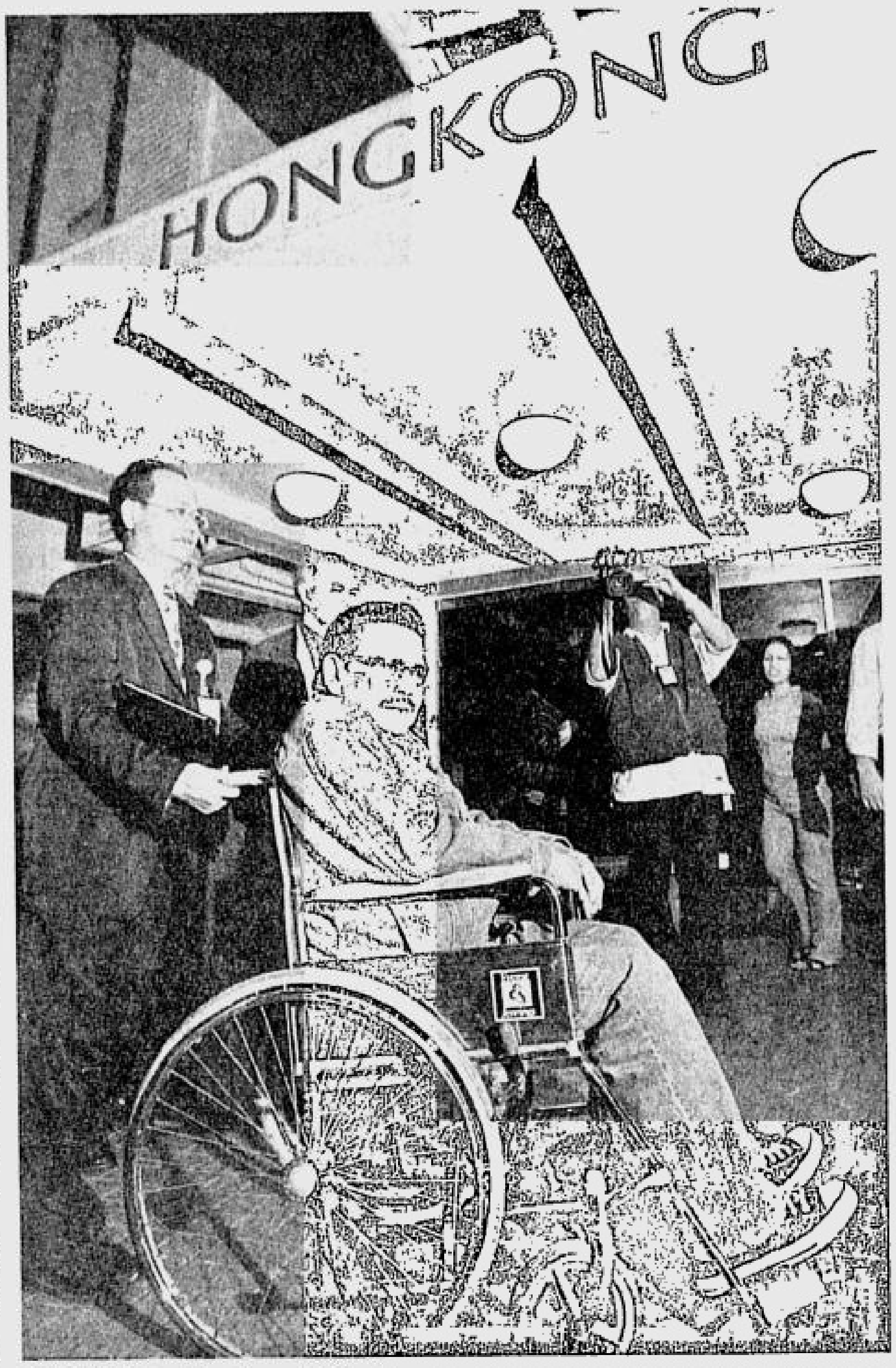
He said he was angry with what Gonzales supposedly said 15 days before the Sandiganbayan issued its decision allowing Estrada to travel to Hong Kong: "You can stay there, Mr. President, for six months, if you want, or more."

"He is not the court, you know," Singson said of Gonzales.

Commenting on the reported raid on a warehouse in the Satrap compound in Ilocos Sur, Singson said it had indeed taken place but that the raiding team had found "nothing illegal."

"I asked after the raid, and I was told there was none. I said that was good. Otherwise, I would close [the factory] myself," he said.

Singson said a small firm was manufacturing "Smart" and "Guoeano" cigarettes for export to China in the compound. He said the firm was duly licensed to do so, and that its papers were in order.



DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada arrives at a hospital in Hong Kong from Manila on a wheelchair.

REUTERS

Estrada arrives in Hong Kong

From page A1

cluded his wife, daughter Jacqueline and her husband Beaver, spokesperson Didagen Dilangalen, doctor Larry Hocson, lawyer Rolly Ramirez and four police escorts led by Chief Insp. Nicolas Perez—left at 2:55 p.m. on board Philippine Airlines flight PR 306.

His eldest son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, his co-accused in the plunder and perjury cases pending at the Sandiganbayan, and who had also asked to be allowed to go to Hong Kong, stayed behind.

The Sandiganbayan is to hear Jinggoy's request today.

Hours earlier, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government was banking on Estrada's word "that he will not abscond."

But Bunye reiterated in a statement that the government was ensuring Estrada's return: "He will be secured and constantly subjected to lawful guards."

Bunye also said President Macapagal-Arroyo was wishing Estrada well on his medical treatment.

Estrada physician Larry Hocson told the INQUIRER that the ex-President was to undergo surgery on both knees on Dec. 30 because his American doctor, Christopher Mow, would have to return to the United States on Jan. 1.

But he will have to hurdle a battery of tests to find out whether his body can take the operation, Hocson said.

Hocson, however, said Estrada was psychologically ready for surgery: "His mindset is very much into it," and he has accepted the fact that there is no other way to treat his arthritic knees.

According to Hocson, the operation on each knee will take up to three hours, and it will take about three months before Estrada can walk normally again.

"We are confident the surgery would be successful," he said.

In a separate interview, Chief Inspector Perez said he and the rest of Estrada's police escorts would keep close watch on their charge even during surgery.

"I am the one holding his passport," Perez said. But he added that none of the police escorts had been allowed by the Hong Kong government to bring firearms.

Estrada said that on his return, he would work to unite the opposition blocs to carry out the reform initiated by his late best friend, Fernando Poe Jr., the opposition standard-bearer in the May presidential election.

"I assure our people that I shall return not just to face the charges against me and clear my name, but, more importantly, to pursue a solemn and moral duty" to reform society, he said in a two-page departure statement.

"I shall come back to pursue the vision of my good friend who was unjustly denied his rightful claim to the presidency. He now serves as our inspiration to confront and fight the evils of our society and of our government."

Estrada said he wanted to "be counted" in the fight against "the tyranny of hunger and poverty, the reign of corruption and mismanagement, and the regime of hopelessness."

He also said that contrary to what his critics had been saying, "I have not come into any compromise, any deal or any form of agreement with this government to secure permission for this journey."

A military helicopter transported Estrada from his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, to Villamor Air Base, where a convoy was waiting to take him to the airport.

He was dressed in a blue denim jacket over a checkered blue shirt, denim pants and dark blue sneakers. He had on a white wrist band with the Malacañang seal in blue.

In contrast, many of his former officials and well-wishers, including retired generals, were wearing *barong tagalog* and blazers.

Later, Estrada media handler Ferdie Ramos said the ex-President had failed to get the Sandiganbayan's permission for him to visit his mother in San Juan and to get his suits from his own house.

When Estrada was preparing to depart, his former deputy executive secretary, Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, was assigned to form a "special sendoff line."

"He's still the President because we had an invalid election," former Sen. Francisco Tatad told the INQUIRER.

Among those present were ex-Secretaries Alberto Romualdez Jr., Bienvenido Laguesma, Gregorio Vigilar, Vicente Rivera, Jose Pardo and Benjamin Diokno, Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Alfredo Lim, Representatives Luis Asistio, Darlene Antonino-Custodio, Francis Escudero and Casimiro Ynares, and former Sen. Eva Estrada-Kalaw.

Also seen were Joselin Nazareno, Cesar Abella, Roberto Calinisan, Enrique Quadra and Angel Sabang—all retired generals.

About 300 members of the Philippine Movement Against Poverty massed outside the airport, and came close to beating up a policeman in civilian clothes whom they suspected as an "infiltrator."

"Please do not provoke us. We have no plans of doing anything wrong," PMAP head Ronald Lumbao urged airport police through a megaphone.

Lumbao said his group was there to "send off President Estrada." *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nancy C. Carvajal*

SAVE UP TO P21,000
SLIMMERS WORLD
GREAT BODIES 2004 WINNERS
CARLOS MORALES Lost 26 lbs. on his programme.
KAREN VILLANUEVA Lost 32 lbs. on her programme.
ONLY P40 PER DAY
No monthly dues, no joining fees on Full Programmes.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.
NO INTEREST! MONTHLY DUES! JOINING FEES!
Only for callers today.

BIO DYNAMICS
Our medically proven fat-burning system guaranteed to give you the type of body you've always wanted in only 6 weeks!

PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL
At the lowest price in the Philippines.

ULTRAPEEL
Micro crystals precisely remove dull layers of the skin, leaving it even-toned, lightened & rejuvenated.

BODY SCRUB & MILK BATH
A pampering and exfoliating treatment that leaves you refreshingly clean.

AQUAMID · BOTOX · RESTYLANE · PERLANE · FACIAL · WART REMOVAL
LASER ACNE TREATMENT · NUTRACELL-FACE · SKIN WHITENING

Call our HOTLINES now!
FITNESS 8873533 CELLPHONE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
SKIN 8871331 CELLPHONE 09164099312

CALL US:
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemma/Breezy 2F RCBC Bldg. Zapote-Alabang Rd. 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 3F Regina Garden II 242-1312
CALOOCAN Sherry/Bheng 6F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave. 365-7653
CEBU Ramil Basement 1&2 Ayala Center 231-3254
GREENHILLS Bianca 27F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani GF Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St. 893-8935
MALATE Daisy 6F Adriatico Square Adriatico, Manila 536-0619
MEGAMALL Sheila/Jenny 2F Bldg. A Mandaluyong 631-3869
PASAY ROAD Cher/Maan 1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St. 887-1335 09178515920
PASIG Fiona/Muffet Restaurant Ave. Marcos Hi-way 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 2F Annex Bldg. Quezon City 929-5429
SUBIC Beth 2F Times Square Rizal Hi-way 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Ice 28F Trafalgar Plaza H V dela Costa 814-0138

SKIN CENTER: ALABANG 7750586/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09182112732 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09165320785 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

Tsunami death toll reaches 22,000

From page A1

tional system in place to track tidal waves in the Indian Ocean.

The waves sped away from the epicenter at over 800 kph (500 mph) before crashing into the region's shorelines, sweeping people out to sea.

In Sri Lanka, the death toll reached 12,029, according to military officials and websites reporting from Tamil areas outside the government's control.

Indonesia and India also each reported thousands dead, and Thailand said hundreds were dead there. Deaths also were reported in Malaysia, Maldives, Burma (Myanmar), Bangladesh and even in Somalia, 4,800 km away in Africa, where the toll also was put at hundreds.

Signs of carnage

Sri Lanka and Indonesia had at least a million people each driven from their homes.

Signs of carnage were everywhere Monday. Dozens of bodies still clad in swimming trunks lined beaches in Thailand. Villagers in Indonesia picked through destroyed homes amid the smell of rotting corpses, lacking any dry ground to inter the dead.

"What shall I do? I don't know where to bury my wife and children," said Rajali, 55, of Indonesia's Aceh province. He goes by a single name.

Helicopters in India rushed medicine to stricken areas, while warships in Thailand steamed to island resorts to rescue survivors.

In Cuddalore village, the bodies of more than 150 children killed were buried in a mass grave—their weeping and red-eyed parents looking on as a bulldozer filled the hole with sodden earth. In Malaysia, officials estimated that children who were frolicking in the surf or at beachside picnics when the waves struck comprised about one-third of victims.

About 200 people were evacuated from devastated Phi Phi island, one of Thailand's most popular destinations for Westerners. Jimmy Gorman, 30, of Manchester, England, said he saw 15 bodies on the island, including up to five children and a pregnant woman.

Nothing left

"Disaster. Flattened everything," Gorman said. "There's nothing left of it."

About 25,000 troops deployed in Sri Lanka dealt with a prison escape of 200 inmates and looters who duped residents into leaving homes by saying more tidal waves were approaching.

"When the residents are gone, they go on a looting spree," said Brig. Daya Ratnayake, a military spokesperson.

The US Geological Survey said the quake's 9.0 magnitude was the strongest since a 9.2 magnitude temblor in Alaska in 1964, and the fourth-largest in a century.

The quake unleashed tsunamis that pummeled southern Thailand an hour later. In 2 1/2 hours, the torrents traveled some 1,600 km to slam into India and Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's government declared a national disaster, as did the neighboring Maldives, a low-lying string of coral atolls where 43 people were killed.

Towns in Indonesia's Aceh province on Sumatra, the closest land to the earthquake's epicenter, were swamped.

10,000 dead

The health ministry said at least 4,991 people were killed in Indonesia, but Vice President Jusuf Kalla said the figure could be as high as 10,000 as he declared a national disaster. A reporter for The Associated Press saw bodies wedged into trees in one village, apparently left there by receding waters.

In India, the waves swept away boats, homes and vehicles, killing at least 2,958 people—most of the victims in Tamil Nadu state, officials said. At least 20,000 people were evacuated.

In Thailand, where the tourist season is at its peak as Europeans escape frigid winters, the government said 866 people were killed and more than 7,000 injured.

Among the dead was the Thai-American grandson of the King Bhumipol Adulyadej, officials said. Poom Jensen, 21, was reportedly jet skiing when the tidal wave struck.

Witnesses in Thailand described seeing waters disappearing away from the beaches in the minutes before the waves struck. Scientists say the effect is caused by tidal waves sucking shallow coastal waters out to sea before returning them as a massive wall of water.

"The water went back, back, back, so far away, and everyone wondered what it was. Then we saw the wave come, and we ran," said Katri Seppanen, who was Phuket Island's Patong beach with her family when the wave washed over their heads and separated them. They found each other two hours later.

Six-month-old Melina Heppell of Western Australia state was swept from her father's arms on the same beach, a relative told Australia's Channel Nine news. Canberra confirmed a baby of that age was killed on the island.

Thailand reported 50 foreigners among its dead, and Sri Lanka reported 72.

Italy said 11 of it citizens were killed, the United States reported three, Australia and Denmark each reported two and New Zealand one. Japanese media reported that 15 bodies in Sri Lanka appeared to be Japanese.

Also among the missing, injured or dead were nationals of South Korea, Germany, South Africa, Hong Kong, Britain, Malaysia, Mexico, Russia, Sweden, Chile, Thai media reported.

In Malaysia, at least 52 people, including foreign tourists, were killed on Penang island, officials said. Thirty were reported killed in Burma, and two in Bangladesh.

AP

Int'l warning system could have saved lives, say scientists

From page A1

tered tsunami activity less than 60 cm high heading south toward Australia, researchers said.

The waves also struck resort beaches on the west coast of the Thailand's south peninsula, killing hundreds. Although Thailand belongs to the international tsunami warning network, its west coast does not have the system's wave sensors mounted on ocean buoys.

The northern tip of the earthquake fault is located near the Andaman Islands, and tsunamis appear to have rushed eastward toward the Thai resort of Phuket on Sunday morning when the community was just stirring.

"They had no tidal gauges and they had no warning," said Waverly Person, a geophysicist at the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado, which monitors seismic activity worldwide. "There are no buoys in the Indian Ocean and that's where this tsunami occurred."

Researchers say the earthquake broke on a fault line deep off the Sumatra coast, running north and south for about 965 km or as far north as the Andaman and Nicobar islands between India and Burma (Mynamar).

Huge rupture

"It's a huge rupture," said Charles McCreery, director of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center near Honolulu. "It's conceivable that the sea floor deformed all the way along that rupture, and that's what initiates tsunamis."

Tsunamis as large and destructive as Sunday's typically happen only a few times in a century.

A tsunami is not a single wave, but a series of traveling ocean waves generated by geological disturbances near or below the ocean floor. With nothing to stop them, these waves can race across the ocean like the crack of a bullwhip, gaining momentum over thousands of miles.

Most are triggered by large earthquakes but they can be caused by landslides, volcanoes and even meteor impacts.

The waves are generated when geologic forces displace sea water in the ocean basin. The bigger the earthquake, the more the Earth's crust shifts and the more seawater begins to move.

Most tsunamis occur in the Pacific because the ocean basin is rimmed by the Ring of Fire, a long chain of the Earth's most seismically active spots. Marine geologists recently have determined that under certain conditions, the US East Coast and other heavily populated coastlines also could be vulnerable.

In a tsunami, waves typically radiate out in directions opposite from the seismic disturbance. In the case of the Sumatra quake, the seismic fault ran north to south beneath the ocean floor, while the tsunami waves shot out west and east.

Speed of 965 kph

Tsunamis are distinguished from normal coastal surf by their great length and speed. A single wave in a tsunami series might be 160 km long and race across the ocean at 965 kph. When it approaches a coastline, the wave slows dramatically, but it also rises to great heights because the enormous volume of water piles up in shallow coastal bays.

And unlike surf, which is generated by wind and the gravitational tug of the moon and other celestial bodies, tsunamis do not break on the coastline every few seconds. Because of their size, it might take an hour for another one to arrive.

Some tsunamis appear as a tide that doesn't stop rising, while others are turbulent and savagely chew up the coast. Without instrumentation, so little is known about this tsunami that researchers must wait for eyewitness accounts to determine its characteristics.

"It was a big tsunami, but it is hard to say exactly how many waves there were or what happened," McCreery said.

In the hours following an earthquake, tsunamis eventually lose their power to friction over the rough ocean bottom or simply as the waves spread out over the ocean's enormous surface.

Start of system

The international warning system was started in 1965, the year after tsunamis associated with a magnitude 9.2 temblor struck Alaska in 1964. It is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Member states include all the major Pacific rim nations in North America, Asia and South America, was well as the Pacific islands, Australia and New Zealand. It also includes France, which has sovereignty over some Pacific islands, and Russia.

However, India and Sri Lanka are not members. "That's because tsunamis are much less frequent in the Indian Ocean," McCreery said.

"Unfortunately, we have no equipment here that can warn about tsunamis," said Budi Waluyo, an official with Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency. "The instruments are very expensive and we don't have money to buy them."

The warning system analyzes earthquake information from several seismic networks, including the US Geological Survey. The seismic information is fed into computer models that "picture" how and where a tsunami might form. It dispatches warnings about imminent tsunami hazards, including predictions how fast the waves are traveling and their expected arrival times in specific geographic areas.

As the waves rush past tidal stations in the ocean, bulletins updating the tsunami warning are issued. Other models generate "inundation maps" of what areas could be damaged, and what communities might be spared.

Not all earthquakes generate tsunamis. The warning center typically does not issue warnings for earthquakes below magnitude 7.0, which are still unusually powerful events.

AP

World scrambles to help victims

From page A1

humanitarian aid, including tents and other emergency supplies, plus a helicopter and rescue experts.

Russia also plans to send aid to Indonesia, where around 5,000 people were estimated to have died in the province of Aceh.

Other countries preferred to send teams of specialists to assess the scale of the damage before following up with material aid.

The first United Nations disaster relief teams were also sent to Sri Lanka, one of the nations worst hit with some 6,000 known to have died.

Jan Egeland, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, said: "This is the first step in what will surely be a larger United Nations response to catastrophic losses suffered as a result of earthquakes and tidal waves."

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the stricken countries needed portable sanitation facilities, medical supplies, tents and helicopters to evacuate people.

UN Children's Fund (Unicef) teams were also assessing damage. "The power of this earthquake, and its huge geographical reach, are just staggering," said Unicef Executive Director Carol Bellamy.

Children in peril

"Hundreds of thousands of children in coastal communities in six countries may be in serious jeopardy," Bellamy said.

A spokesperson for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called the waves "catastrophic" and said Annan had been "profoundly saddened to learn of the massive loss of life and destruction."

A French government plane was to take about 100 doctors, rescue specialists and communications experts to Sri Lanka on Monday. Israel was also sending doctors and has offered similar help to India.

Germany announced that it was sending one million euros ($1.35 million) of aid to the stricken region and was working with humanitarian groups.

Pakistan said it would send tents, medicine and water to Sri Lanka, while the Indian government, which has set up a huge operation to help people on its southern coasts, was also offering food and medicine to its neighbor. Five Indian warships headed for Sri Lanka.

Greece was sending two military C-130 cargo planes to Madras in India and Colombo with more than six tons of aid along with doctors and rescuers, and had released aid of 150,000 euros for each country.

Australia offered A$10 million (US$7.6 million) for aid, and dispatched two military C-130 transport planes with drinking water and other supplies to a staging base in Malaysia later Monday.

"I stress that this is an initial contribution," Prime Minister John Howard said. "Australia will and should give more."

Howard said A$5 million of the aid would go to the Australian Red Cross, A$3 million would go directly to Indonesia and A$2 million would be given to other Australian nongovernmental organizations.

European Union aid

The European Union gave immediate aid of three million euros (US$4 million) and promised more.

Ireland also released one million euros (US$1.35 million) and Kuwait offered US$1 million.

Britain sent two experts to join UN crisis assessment teams and pledged US$100,000 to fund a World Health Organization crisis response team.

Canada's International Development Minister Aileen Carroll said Ottawa would send an initial contribution of C$1 million in aid (US$820,000) through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Swiss-based federation Sunday appealed for 7.5 million Swiss francs (US$6.6 million) to help an estimated 500,000 survivors.

Two teams from Sweden's rescue services were to be flown to Thailand on Monday, each consisting of technicians and communications experts, the TT news agency said.

In addition, two doctors, a Swede and a Dane, sent by the SOS International organization, were due to arrive in the Thai resort island of Phuket on Monday.

Sweden's foreign ministry was offering financial aid to the Thai Red Cross.

More promise of aid

"The United States stands ready to offer all appropriate assistance to those nations most affected including Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Thailand and Indonesia, as well as the other countries impacted," the White House said in a statement.

Japan sent a 20-member medical team, including four physicians and seven nurses, to Sri Lanka and promised more aid was on the way.

"We must provide care for physical injuries and infectious diseases," said Hiroyuki Yokota, deputy head of the team, told reporters before leaving.

"While securing our own safety, we want to be of help to the affected people," Yokota said.

The Japanese Red Cross Society said it would give 100 million yen (US$965,250) to help tsunami victims and that it had an emergency response unit on standby to assist victims.

Iran, where some 31,000 people were killed in the southern city of Bam exactly a year before the Asian disaster, would also do what it could to help, President Mohammad Khatami said.

Turkey, another earthquake-prone country, also promised help.

Pope John Paul II, members of royalty and political leaders led the outpouring of sympathy from Europe.

"We pray for the victims of this huge tragedy and we hope that the world community will mobilize to rush aid to the affected populations," the Pope said on Sunday after weekly prayers on St. Peter's Square.

AFP

RP prone to tsunamis, Phivolcs reminds people

From page A1

not powerful enough to cause tsunamis and were not linked to Sunday's undersea Asian earthquake of epic power that sent huge deadly walls of water crashing down on beaches in eight countries, killing more than 15,000 people.

Tsunamis had hit the country before killing thousands and could hit it again because it is in the middle of active trenches that frequently move and cause earthquakes at sea.

"[The Philippines] is located in the earthquake belt. It is prone to earthquakes and tsunamis... because of its long coastline," said Enrico Mangao, a research specialist at the seismology division of Phivolcs.

Phivolcs chief Renato Solidum said land masses (Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand) protected the Philippines from being battered by the deadly tsunamis triggered by an earthquake in Indonesia with a magnitude of 8.9 on the Richter scale.

"The earthquake epicenter was offshore of northwest Sumatra facing the Indian Ocean, thus the tsunami generated affected shorelines in the Indian Ocean," Solidum said.

But reports of the disaster caused fears in the coastal town of Dingalan in Aurora whose residents were still reeling from a series of landslides since November.

Fr. Antonio Evangelio, the town's parish priest, said municipal budget officer Cesar Felipe had warned of incoming tidal waves, causing people to move to high ground.

"Then text messages came, purportedly confirming the impending calamity. They were easily agitated because of what they went through," Evangelio said. By Monday afternoon, residents had returned to their villages.

Manila Trench

The first temblor in the country struck at 4:08 a.m. yesterday and was centered at sea, 69 km southwest of Bataan. The quake, caused by the movement of the Manila Trench, had a preliminary magnitude of 4.7, Mangao said.

The second earthquake, with a magnitude of 5.0, rocked Davao Oriental 42 minutes later. The temblor struck at sea about 114 km southeast of Mati town, about 1,114 km southeast of Manila.

The second quake, caused by movement of the Philippine Trench, had a depth of 100 km, according to Mangao.

East Luzon Trench

While the two earthquakes were too weak to cause a tsunami, both were caused by the trenches capable of causing tidal waves with a certain amount of tectonic movement.

"The country is surrounded by active trenches. If these cause earthquakes of considerable magnitude, they will cause tsunamis," Mangao said in an interview.

Other active trenches include the East Luzon Trench off the country's largest island and the Cotabato Trench in Mindanao.

Tsunami hit Mindanao

Mangao said earthquakes at sea with a magnitude of at least 7 on the Richter scale would cause tsunamis.

He said the most devastating tsunami was caused by the Cotabato trench almost 30 years ago.

More than 4,000 people died as a result of the tsunami caused by a magnitude 7.9 earthquake on Aug. 17, 1976.

More recently, the movement of the Aglubang fault killed 78 people in the pre-dawn earthquake and tsunami that hit Mindoro island on Nov. 15, 1994. The earthquake had a magnitude of 7.1.

Mangao said the earthquakes yesterday and the one that affected Southeast Asia were unrelated.

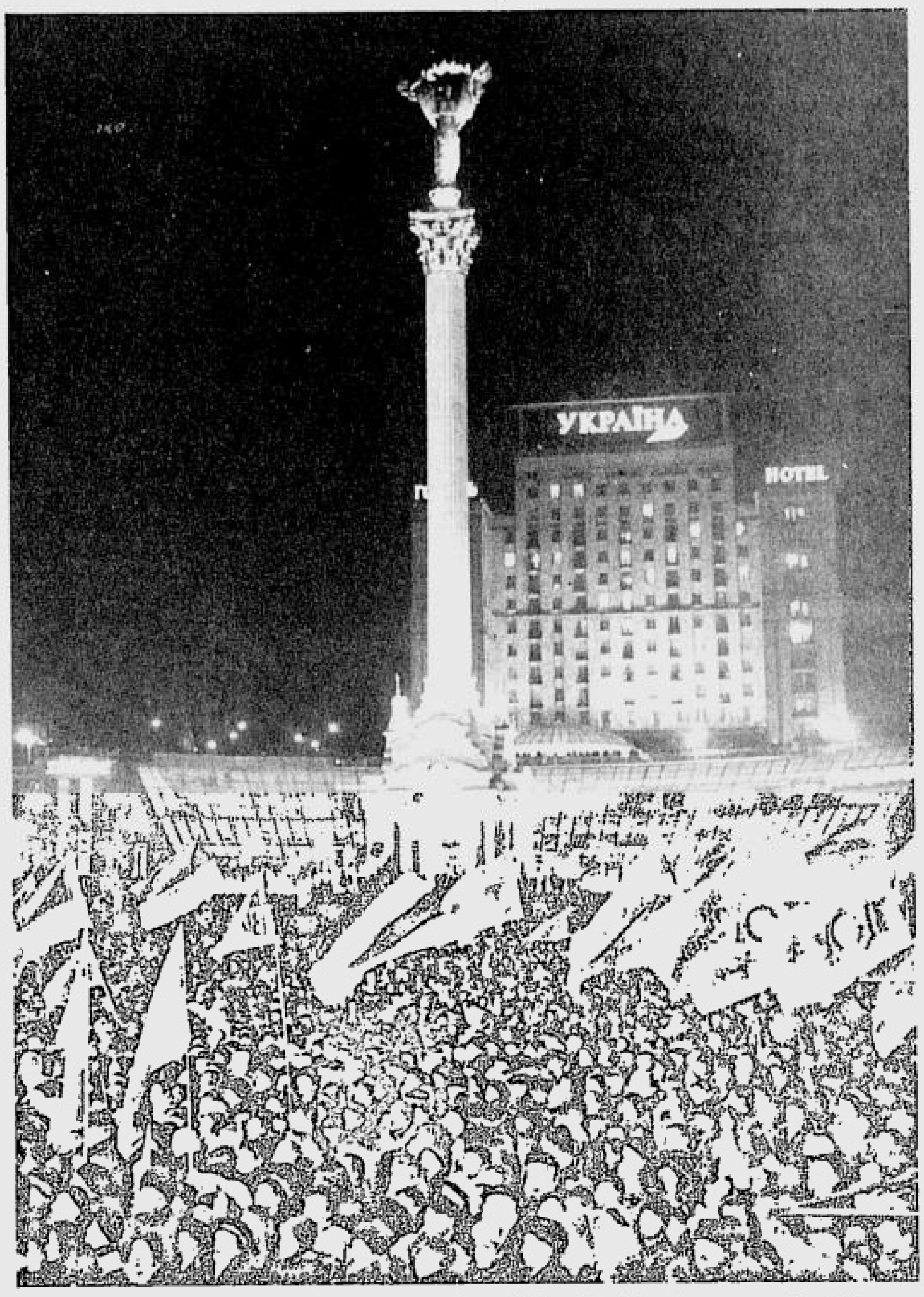
"It is too far away. Before it affects us, it would have to first affect, Thailand and Borneo island," Mangao said.

Moreover, he said, the systems that caused the huge earthquake were not in anyway connected with those that cause temblors in the Philippines.

Mangao said the huge earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sumatra had caused many aftershocks, none of which were felt in the country.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



SUPPORTERS of opposition presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko wave national flags and opposition colors in a jubilation after the announcement of the first exit polls at the Independence Square in Kiev, Dec. 26. AFP

Pro-West Yushchenko wins Ukraine election

KIEV—Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko won Ukraine's presidency Monday after a historic and wrenching election in which he vowed to steer the strategic ex-Soviet nation on a new course toward the West and away from Russia.

The beaming hero of the "orange revolution" that shook Ukraine to its core for weeks appeared in front of hordes of reporters and activists at his campaign headquarters in the early hours of Monday to claim victory.

"It has happened," he said to wild cheers and applause.

"For 14 years we have been independent, but now we are free. This is a victory for the Ukrainian people, for the Ukrainian nation," the 50-year-old former prime minister said as his audience broke into applause and chants of "Yu-shchenk-ko! Yu-shchen-ko!"

The central election commission said Yushchenko held nearly a 10-point lead over Yanukovich with more than 95 percent of ballots counted.

Yushchenko had 52.75 percent of the vote, compared with the 43.46 percent for his pro-Russia rival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, a difference of nearly three million votes.

Turnout was 77.22 percent.

Yushchenko's victory marked a political earthquake in a country where only last month national television had all but banished him from the air and Russian President Vladimir Putin publicly endorsed Yanukovich as the new president.

The 54-year-old Yanukovich was officially declared winner of a Nov. 21 presidential ballot and was twice congratulated by Putin but, charging fraud, Yushchenko refused to concede and organized mass "orange revolution" protests in Kiev before the Supreme Court threw out the poll due to huge ballot fraud.

"Today we are turning the page on human disrespect, censorship, lies and violence," he said. "People who were dragging the country toward the abyss are today stepping into the past."

After speaking at his campaign headquarters, Yushchenko returned to Kiev's central Independence Square that has become the focal point of the "orange revolution," where he told tens of thousands of cheering supporters waving orange flags, that "an independent and free Ukraine now lies before us."

He repeated his call however for his supporters to remain in the square until he is officially confirmed as the winner of the election.

Throughout the night, Independence Square was again the scene of a raucous and jubilant pro-Yushchenko street party. *AFP*

Greetings!!!
In our thrust to extend our utmost service to those who might need it during the Holidays, we are happy to announce that we are still open for business on DEC. 26 'till DEC. 30, 2004 (same time as usual).
So see you then! God Bless!!!
St. Raphael The Archangel
Pharmaceutical Distributor
#461 Quezon Ave. corner Banawe st., Q.C.

EMBARRASSED by BAD BREATH?
It's amazing breakthrough in medical technology Therabreath System™ a U.S. product effectively eliminates *bad breath, bitter/sour taste, phlegm in throat, posty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.* Bad Breath is caused by sulfur producing bacteria on your tongue & throat not in stomach or sinus. That's why mouthwashes and capsules don't really work. Free use of *Halimeter* to detect the source of bacteria and monitoring bad breath condition.
Free delivery w/in Metro Manila
Money back guarantee
Tel: 890-6380; 895-5532; 897-2466
Cel# 0917-7965859;0919-5109455

BEST PRICED SOAP & DETERGENTS
YEAREND INVENTORY SALE!
DECEMBER 27, 28, 29 & 30 2004
18 GENERAL AVE., GSIS VILL., PROJECT 8 QUEZON CITY
CALL: 453-0879 • 453-0882
www.gristchem.com

Hamas posts solid performance in town elections

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Hamas militants defeated the mainstream Palestinian movement Fatah in nine of 26 local elections, results showed on Sunday, in a foretaste of challenges confronting emerging moderate leader Mahmoud Abbas.

Hamas' standing in polls about national leadership has declined since Yasser Arafat's death amid growing weariness with violence and a drive by the US-favored Abbas to revive peace talks aimed at Palestinian statehood on Israeli-occupied land.

But Hamas' solid performance in its first foray into electoral politics, and the first Palestinian grassroots vote since 1976, signaled discontent with corruption and chaos in Fatah that Abbas must overcome to establish his authority.

He received boosts when 560 prominent Palestinians called in front-page newspaper adverts for an end to violence while Israel approved plans to pull back forces to help Palestinians vote in a Jan. 9 presidential election he is widely expected to win.

"The election is of supreme importance in establishing a (Palestinian) leadership with which we hope to move forward on the road map," Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said, citing an international peace plan stymied by persistent violence. *Reuters*

Japan may allow female empress

MASAKO

TOKYO—Japan will set up a task force to consider allowing a reigning empress, an official said Monday—the government's first review of a post-World War II law that limits imperial succession to men.

Japanese law bans women from ascending to the Chrysanthemum Throne. But no boy has been born to the Japanese royal family since the 1960s, and government officials have been fretting about how to solve the royals' most serious succession crisis in centuries.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said a 10-member task force comprised of government officials, legal experts and scholars would begin meeting in January to examine legal revisions. They will compile a recommendation for the government by late 2005.

"The emperor... conducts important state affairs. Maintaining a stable succession concerns the fundamentals of this country," Hosoda told a news conference.

Crown Prince Naruhito, 44, and his younger brother have three daughters between them, but no sons. Unless Parliament changes the law governing succession, there will be nobody to take over after Emperor Akihito and his son, Naruhito.

Opinion polls have shown that more than 80 percent of Japanese would welcome a reigning empress.

Public concerns for Naruhito's wife, Masako, have pressured the government to consider amending the succession law.

The prince has said Masako—a former diplomat who was educated at Oxford and Harvard—suffers from stress-induced exhaustion brought on by the harsh adjustment to royal life and the pressures of producing a male heir.

Masako, who has stayed out of the public eye, said in a statement earlier this month that she is recovering from her psychological disorder but won't resume her official duties for "some time."

In recent months, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has thrown his support behind letting Naruhito's only child, Aiko, succeed her father.

Japan last had a reigning empress almost 200 years ago. A total of eight women have occupied the Chrysanthemum Throne throughout its 1,500 years of documented history. *AP*

VILLAGE tenthaus
THE PIONEER. THE LEADER.
* AWNINGS * CANOPIES * CAR TENTS * GARDEN / PARTY TENTS
* WAREHOUSE TENTS * CAMPING TENTS * SLEEPING BAGS
* PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT * TENT & STAGE RENTAL
TELEFAX : 872-2332
CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATES
LAS PIÑAS CITY 872-3788 | QUEZON CITY 922-0432 | MAKATI CITY 895-5484

AMAZING!
OVERNIGHT
P399/PAX night WEEKDAY
OR P699/PAX night WEEKEND
2-3 PAX IN A ROOM
✓ SUBIC ✓ BATANGAS
✓ CLARK ✓ CALIRAYA
✓ TAGAYTAY ✓ LOS BAÑOS
DAY TOURS!
ZOOBIC SAFARI ENTRANCE P295-P695
RES. INN TAGAYTAY ENTRANCE P50-P299
CLARK WATER ADVENTURE AS LOW AS P290 PER PAX
TAAL-TAGAYTAY TREK AS LOW AS P499 PER PAX
LOS BAÑOS-CALIRAYA AQUA TOUR AS LOW AS P499 PER PAX
ZOOBIC-GRANDE ISLAND AS LOW AS P695 PER PAX
FERRY ADVENTURE * MNLA-ORION SAMAT-ZOOBIC AS LOW AS P999 PER PAX
AVAIL OUR YEARLY PACKAGE OF 2 FREE EQUIVALENT ROOMS P1,990
WATCH! TAGAYTAY RES. INN: ANIMAL, PANTOMIME & MAGIC SHOW
ZOOBIC SAFARI: CLOWNS, JUNGLE SURVIVAL TECHNIQUE & ANIMAL SHOW
CALL: 899-9824; 895-7142; 898-3695; 815-2441; 899-9595 loc 346; TAGAYTAY: (046)4131244; CLARK: (045)5993956; SUBIC: 0916-3367171, 0920-6221451; TXT: 0917-8351111; VISIT: www.residenceinnresorts.com or www.zoobic.com
SAFARI PARTY PACKAGE 899-9595 loc 344

Ex-Taiwan leader heads for Japan, infuriating China

NAGOYA, Japan—Taiwan's former president Lee Teng-hui headed Monday for Japan for a weeklong visit despite protests by China which is furious Tokyo allowed the trip by the pro-independence leader.

Lee, his wife Tsen Wen-hui and two other relatives departed Taipei for the central Japanese city of Nagoya on what Lee's Taiwan Solidarity Union party called "a breakthrough" against China's efforts to isolate the island.

The trip, while officially private, comes amid tense relations between Japan and China after a Chinese submarine intruded into Japanese waters recently and Tokyo revised its defense guidelines to list Beijing as a potential threat.

A report said Lee, who frequently riled Beijing during his presidency from 1988 to 2000, hoped to make visits to Japan routine and tour northern Japan during the spring cherry blossom season.

"The purpose of Lee's visit to Japan this time is to set a precedent," an aide to the former president told the pro-Taiwan Tokyo Shimbun newspaper.

"Unless a new reason emerges in the course of this sightseeing trip to deny him a visa, we expect there will be high probability that Japan would approve visa applications in the future," said the aide, whose name was not given.

The newspaper said Lee declined offers for welcoming ceremonies in Japan in the hope of ensuring he is issued visas in the future. *AFP*

NOTICE OF OFFICE RELOCATION

Notice to all brokers,PDDTS & PvP Member banks,custodian banks, transfer agents, other concerned institutions and the general public.

Starting January 03, 2005 the **PDS Group of Companies** comprised of the

Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (**PDEx**) Philippine Securities Settlement Corp. (**PSSC**) Philippine Depository & Trust Corp. (**PDTC**)

Will conduct its official business at its new office located at the

37/FTower 1, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas,
Makati City

Notice is also given for the new telephone numbers

Depository Services	884-5028/884-5034	PDEx	884-5005 to 06
PDDTS&PvP	884-5030 to 31	Network & System	884-5067 to 68
Registar Services	884-5025 to 26	Billing & Accounting	884-5012 to 14
Custody Services	884-5022/884-5024	Executive Offices	8845005 to 06
HR & Admin	884-5008 to 11		

All over-the-counter transactions will now be conducted at this new office address and contact numbers.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Justice
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION
Magallanes Drive, Intramuros
1002 Manila

NOTICE
TO ALL ALIENS

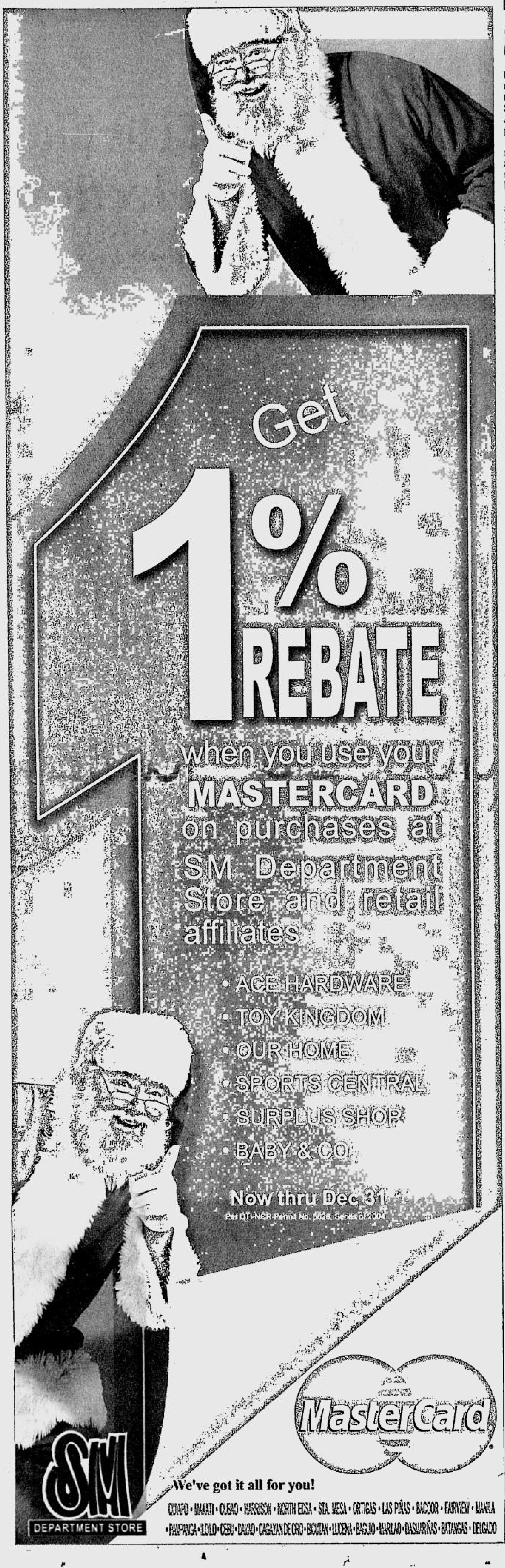
All ALIENS, immigrant or non-immigrant living or having a temporary stay in the Philippines, are hereby reminded that pursuant to Section 3 of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, in relation to Section 10 of the Alien Registration Act, to report in person to the Bureau of Immigration within the first sixty (60) days of every year to update their file with the Bureau. For those who are in Metro Manila, the Annual Report shall be at the Alien Registration Division, BI, Intramuros, Manila, while for those in the provinces, they can report to the nearest BI Subport office.

The Official-In-Charge shall accept such annual report in the manner to be prescribed by the rules and regulations. An Annual Report fee of Three Hundred and Ten Pesos (P310.00) shall be paid by the alien. The parent or legal guardian of an alien who is less than fourteen years of age, shall have the duty of reporting for such alien: Provided, that whenever any such alien attains his fourteenth birthday in the Philippines, he/she shall report in person and pay the required annual report fee within the period and at the place designated above.

For compliance.

ALIPIO F. FERNANDEZ, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – December 28, 2004)



Get 1% REBATE when you use your MASTERCARD on purchases at SM Department Store and retail affiliates

- ACE HARDWARE
- TOY KINGDOM
- OUR HOME
- SPORTS CENTRAL
- SURPLUS SHOP
- BABY & CO.

Now thru Dec 31
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5626, Series of 2004

MasterCard

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

We've got it all for you!

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO

Suicide attack on Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden car into the Baghdad headquarters of top Iraqi Shiite Muslim political leader Abdel Aziz Hakim on Monday, killing 13 people and wounding dozens more.

Hakim, head of one of the country's main Shiite political parties, the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), escaped with his life but a number of his guards were killed.

A giant fireball knocked down walls and shattered windows at Hakim's offices in the latest attack against the country's majority Shiite community in the run-up to next month's crucial elections.

"Thirteen people were killed and 66 were injured and about 60 cars were destroyed," an interior ministry official said.

At least one woman was among the dead, hospital sources said.

A speeding explosives-packed car hurtled toward the gates of Hakim's spacious mansion in the southeastern Jadriyah district at 9:30 a.m., said a spokesperson for SCIRI.

"We had an attack against our offices here by a suicide bomber. It seems he was trying to get through the main gate, but his vehicle exploded," Haitham al-Husseini said.

Husseini blamed toppled dictator Saddam Hussein's old Baath party for the attack, saying: "It was elements of the old r
extremists trying to
process in Iraq."

Around Hakim's
home of Saddam's d
ister Tareq Aziz, US
blocked the road
stood behind razor w

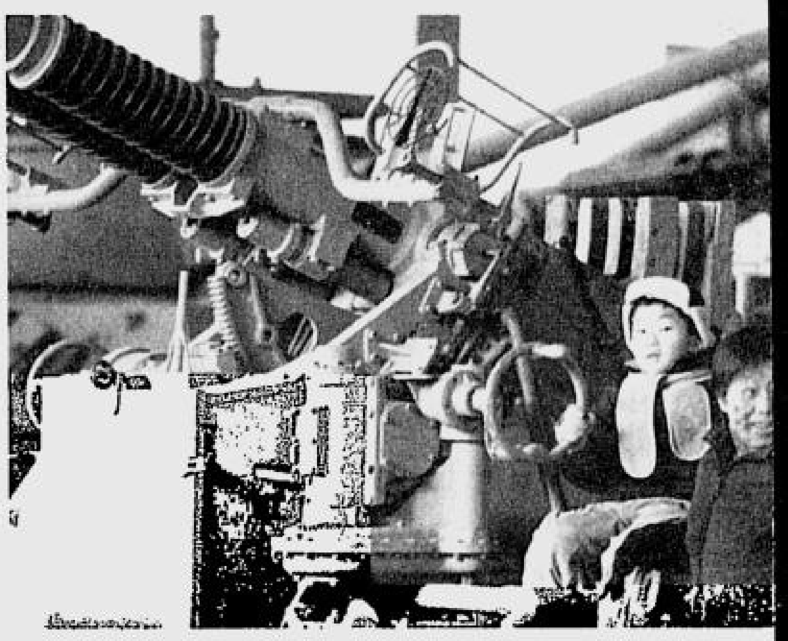
Residents recou
morning scene of car

"A car was spe
wrong side of the s
tried to stop him bu
said a neighbor, Rafe

Store owner Iyad
heard a strong explos
rose into the sky. Th

China says armed forces will c any effort at Taiwan independe

BEIJING—Crushing "the vicious rise" of Taiwan independence was put firmly at the core of a new national defense policy issued Monday, the first prepared by President Hu Jintao since he became head of China's military.



A CHINESE child and woman try out an obsolete military hardware on
Beijing, China, Dec. 27. China, home to the world's largest standing arr
would modernize its military to better face down threats from an indep
Taiwan and increased global uncertainty.

The 85-page white paper outlined a list of security threats, including nuclear issues on the Korean peninsula and Japan's proposed constitutional changes but its main thrust was on strained relations with Taiwan.

The document, the fifth on national defense since 1995, described Taiwan relations as "grim" and made clear any attempt at independence would be harshly dealt with.

"Should the Taiwan authorities go so far as to make a reckless attempt that constitutes a major incident of Taiwan independence the Chinese people and armed forces will resolutely and thoroughly crush it at any cost," it said.

"The Taiwan authorities under (President) Chen Shuibian have recklessly challenged the status quo... and markedly escalated the Taiwan independence activities designed to split China."

The document said it was the "sacred responsibility" of the Chinese Army to stop Taiwan independence forces from splitting the country.

It accused Chen and his Democratic Progressive Party of inciting anti-China sentiment and slammed the United States for selling arms to the island.

"(The United States) continues to increase, quantitatively and qualitatively, its arms sales to Taiwan, sending a wrong signal to the Taiwan authorities," it said.

"The US action does not serve a stable situation across the Taiwan Straits."

The policy paper came as China's legislature deliberated a proposed anti-secession law aimed at preventing Taiwan from declaring formal independence.

Beijing said hostilities could be ended if Taiwan, which it sees as part of its territory even though it broke with the mainland in 1949 after a civil war, accepted it was part of China and stopped its "separatist activities."

The document said defense expenditure increased to 211.7 billion yuan ($25.6 billion) in 2004 from 170.8 billion yuan in 2002 and 190.8 billion yuan in 2003.

Hong Kong-based military analyst Ma Ding-shing said the fact that C
that i
been
cated
milit

"It
putt
action
dollar

In
na. T
in Ju
610.8
($18.
phsti
Wash
ried s

2 US airlines' woes strand more airline passengers

WASHINGTON—Flight cancelations stranded thousands of Christmas weekend airline passengers in the United States again on Sunday as two airlines wrestled with computer and staffing headaches.

Financially troubled US Airways scratched 29 flights systemwide after a continued "unusually high level of sick calls" from baggage handlers and flight attendants, said Amy Kudwa, a spokesperson.

Separately, Comair, a Delta Air Lines Inc. unit, resumed a "limited" flight schedule after grounding all of its 1,100 flights to 119 cities on Christmas because of a computer system crash, said Tracey Bowden, a Delta spokesperson.

The holiday travel plans of about 30,000 Comair passengers were scrambled on Saturday. Bowden could not estimate how many flights would take off on Sunday but said the number would rise over the next several days "with anticipation they will be operating a full schedule by the end of the week."

Comair mainly flies routes in the eastern half of the United States, including New York, Boston and Washington, and serves Delta's major hubs in Atlanta, Cincinnati and Salt Lake City.

The Federal Aviation Administration was set to help the two airlines reposition aircraft and crews for normal operations, said Greg Martin, a spokesperson.

But "the problem is exclusive to their operations," not a federal air traffic control matter, he said, adding this would be of scant consolation to the thousands being inconvenienced.

Kudwa of US Airways said its woes began with "severe weather" over Philadelphia on Thursday, compounded by unusually high sick calls from baggage handlers there and a record 32,000 of the airline's passengers moving through the airport. *Reuters*

TIDAL WAVE VICTIM
Undated photo shows the grandson of Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Bhumi Jensen, 21, was among those killed when tidal waves smashed into southern Thailand.

S. Africa's inventors dream up i

By Alistair Thomson

JOHANNESBURG—Want a computer that screams when a thief strikes? Or a personal tracking unit in case you get kidnapped?

All this from the nation that brought you the antihijack flame-throwing car.

South Africa's inventors are dreaming up ever more ingenious ways of getting one over on the criminals.

"We are a tremendously inventive nation," said Adi Paterson of the government's Department of Science and Innovation.

"We are some of the quickest imitators in the world as well—if somebody comes up with a great idea somewhere else, we are very quick to pick it up and turn it into something successful," added Paterson, who chairs an Innovation Board Trust intended to foster new ideas and make them commercially viable.

The fund targets all manner of projects South Africans come up with, but Paterson says many are security-based.

"What we have done sometimes is put together think tanks to address a particular crime, and think how to tackle it more aggressively. For example, cash in transit—there have been a range of inventions which have brought down the level of cash heists," Paterson said.

Attacks on security vans carrying cash are a regular occurrence in South Africa, and all too often it is the security guards and drivers who end up dead at the roadside.

Their companies and the nation's inventors alike are forever devising new systems to dye stolen bank notes with permanent ink, track stolen vehicles or seal off the cash section of vans in a constant batt
the equally resour

Antihijack devic
lite tracking devic
becoming ever mor

In Johannesbu
ern suburbs scarc
out radio-controlle
antiburglar beams
that bring arme
bursting through th
of an intruder's h

"Joburgers" hav
for obsession with
advert for cheap t
Ocean resort of D
young buy on the
sandcastle compl
rate system of ra
With millions
South Africa is
culture of crimi
chief Jackie Seleb

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Shiite leader kills 13

gime and other
top the political

ffice, the former
puty prime min-
military vehicles
nd US soldiers
re barricades.
ted the early
nage.
ling down the
reet. The guards
t they couldn't,"
Adel.
Allawi added: "I
on and a fireball
re was smoke in

HAKIM

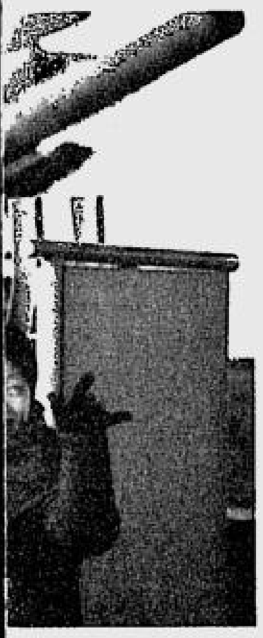
front of their offices. We ran and I heard glass shattering. I saw several bodies being taken away in a pick up."

Hakim's followers, already grieving the deaths of more than 100 SCIRI members since their return to Iraq after the April 2003 fall of Saddam, were relieved to hear their political leader emerged unscathed.

"Thank God, Abdel Aziz Hakim and the other members of his family are safe and sound," said Hakim's son Mohsen Hakim in Tehran.

He said four or five security guards died, while a spokesperson at Hakim's offices said three or four guards were killed and several others wounded. *AFP*

rush
nce



display at a museum in
ny, said Monday it
endence-minded

AP

hina was openly claiming
military expenditure has
rowing at such a rate indi-
it was keen to prove its
y might to Taiwan.
could mean that it is
pressure on Taiwan in re-
to its 600 billion Taiwan
military budget," Ma said.
move that angered Chi-
iwan's Cabinet approved
e a special budget of
billion Taiwan dollars
billion) to purchase so-
ated weaponry from
ngton over a 15-year pe-
rting in 2005. *AFP*

Iraq rejects US suggestion of adjusting election result

BAGHDAD—Iraq's election body rejected a suggestion in Washington it adjust the results of next month's vote to benefit the Sunni minority if low turnout in Sunni areas means Shiites win an exaggerated majority in the new assembly.

Speaking of "unacceptable" interference, Electoral Commission spokesperson Farid Ayar said: "Who wins, wins. That is the way it is. That is the way it will be in the election."

US diplomats in Baghdad, at pains to keep their role in the election discreet, declined comment on a New York Times report from Washington which said Sunnis might be granted extra seats if the community's vote was judged to have been too low.

US officials have expressed concern that if the ballot on Jan. 30 fails to reflect Iraq's sectarian and ethnic mix due to violence and boycotts in Sunni areas, then the assembly will lack legitimacy. But any attempt to fix the proportion of seats going to the main groups in advance could have the same effect.

"The Americans are expressing their views and those aren't always the same as the commission's," Ayar said.

"But the commission is absolutely independent. It is not acceptable for anyone to interfere in our business."

Some leaders among Sunni Arabs, a 20-percent minority who dominated the country under Saddam Hussein and before, have called for the election to be put off because violence in the north and west will make it hard for Sunnis to vote.

But Shiites, who account for 60 percent of the 26 million population, are keen to exercise their electoral weight.

The New York Times said Shiite leaders had been approached about the idea. Shiites would be reluctant to see the minority shut out of power if that means more violence, like the twin suicide car bombs that rocked their holy cities a week ago.

Next month's vote will elect 275 legislators who will appoint a president and government and oversee the drafting of a new constitution over the next year.

White House spokesperson Trent Duffy insisted it was up to the Iraqis, not Washington, to decide the rules of the election.

"The United States supports the Iraqi election commission in defining those rules. But it's up to the Iraqi election commission to determine the rules," Duffy said.

Ansar al-Sunna, a militant group that said it carried out a suicide bomb attack on a US mess hall in Mosul last week killing 22 people, released a video tape on Sunday apparently showing the bombing and preparations for the attack.

Police in the Shiite holy city of Najaf said they were making progress in catching those responsible for the bombing last week that killed 52 people. Along with a bomb that killed 14 in nearby Kerbala, it was seen as an attempt to spark sectarian conflict in the run-up to the election.

Police chief Ghalib al-Jazairi said one man in detention had confessed to attending a guerrilla training camp in Syria.

Iraq accuses Syrian intelligence of aiding former Saddam loyalists and Islamist groups in Iraq. Another man had been arrested who had filmed the scene before and after the bombing. *Reuters*

Gang member admits involvement in bloody attack on Honduran bus

TEGUCIGALPA—A member of the Mara Salvatrucha gang has confessed to involvement in a bloody attack on a city bus in northern Honduras this week that left 28 people dead and 21 injured, police said Saturday.

Alexis Ramirez, 23, was arrested late Thursday after he was found in a car littered with shell casings, the same night gunmen fired AK-47 and M-16 assault rifles at the bus in Chamelecon, 220 km north of here, police sources said.

Ramirez confessed to having participated in the attack, the sources said.

"Now, the case is practically solved: It was carried out by members of the MS (Mara Salvatrucha), in an attack on the government for the battle that has been waged against them," a police spokesperson said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He added that "MS gang members were competing with a rival gang (Mara 18) to see who could carry out more attacks."

President Ricardo Maduro called the massacre "one of the most barbaric and cowardly acts in Honduran history" and has offered a $53,000 (39,000-euro) reward for any information leading to the attackers' capture.

Police said a leaflet was found on the bus, asking Maduro "where's your security?" and threatening him and other politicians behind the government's crackdown on organized crime.

"This attack did not target a particular individual, group of people or political party, as the leaflet the cowards left on the scene says, but I interpret it as an attack against all Hondurans," Maduro declared.

The attackers' leaflet was signed "Merry Christmas. Sinchonero People's Liberation Movement" (sic). A guerrilla group named Cinchonero People's Liberation Movement was very active during El Salvador's civil war in the 1970s and 1980s.

But authorities discarded Cinchonero's involvement in the attack. Police also found the initials "MS" in the note left by the assailants.

Police had said privately that the attacks was the work of gang members, since the note also warned Congress president Porfirio Lobo to keep out of next year's presidential election.

Lobo, one of four candidates vying for the right-wing National Party's nomination to run for president in 2005, has been calling for tougher anticrime policies, including the death penalty for gang members. *AFP*

ngenious ways to beat crime

stay ahead of
criminals.
d radio or satel-
family cars are
phisticated.
wealthy north-
house is with-
ates, infra-red
electric fences
curity guards
oor at the drop

come a byword
curity, with an
s to the Indian
an showing a
ach building a
with an elabo-
re.
s in circulation,
ng to contain a
violence. Police
ys he will use his

new post as head of Interpol to wage war on the spread of guns in South Africa and abroad.

At his farm northeast of Pretoria, Nic van Zyl is busy inventing a "smart gun," as he has been doing for 15 years.

With a computer circuit board concealed in the butt and a revolutionary laser firing mechanism instead of the traditional hammer, the "South African Intelligent Firearm" would not look out of place on the set of a science fiction movie.

The really clever bit is in the handle, which reads the user's thumb print so only the rightful owner can fire it.

And when it shoots, a camera takes a digital photo of the target, noting the time and the date—just in case the user ends up in court having to justify opening fire.

"It records what you're firing at, not what you've just destroyed," said van Zyl. "If fitted with a GPS (global positioning system) you can even record the coordinates of where the gun was fired."

Van Zyl hopes to help cut South Africa's high murder rate.

"What inspired it was all the police deaths we were having in our country at the time. Not only police, but other people were being killed for their weapons," said Carol van Zyl, who has watched her husband working away on the gun in his spare time for much of the past decade.

A few kilometers away in Johannesburg, Jason Roper has an idea for cracking down on office computer theft.

His system uses free wiring already present in most office networks. As soon as a computer is removed, the system sends a text message to the owner's mobile phone—and blasts out a high-pitched alarm. *Reuters*

final clearance
sale
dec. 26 - jan.2
up to
50% off
on selected items
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6030, Series of 2004
rewards and benefits • every time you shop
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
MasterCard
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON
BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PA
BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 20
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
• 100% soy ink •

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Recurring tragedies

EDITORIAL

TWO recent tragedies—the series of four typhoons that killed 1,062 people and the death in a fire of Speaker Jose de Venecia's youngest daughter—have once again focused attention on two recurring problems. These are deforestation and the inadequacy of firefighting equipment and personnel.

Some people say that deforestation was not the only factor that caused the landslides and floods that killed hundreds of people in Quezon, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Mindoro and Leyte. But certainly deforestation was one of the major factors, if not the major factor. Deforestation destroyed watersheds on the mountains and deprived them of the capability to hold rainwater. The result was that the huge volumes of rain brought by the four successive typhoons came thundering down the mountains, killing hundreds and destroying hundreds of millions of pesos in property and crops.

Logging—both legal and illegal—has steadily cut down the once lush forest cover of the country. The forest cover has decreased by 56 percent in the postwar period. In the past 50 years, the country has lost one hectare of forest every minute, leaving only a 21 percent forest cover. To be sure, loggers are not alone to blame. There are also those who practise *kaingin* (forest burning and clearing to provide land for farms) and those who cut down trees for firewood and charcoal-making. But these make up a minimal percentage of those who destroy the forest.

The government is virtually helpless in stopping illegal logging. Only about 4,500 forest rangers watch over 15 million hectares of forest lands. That is about 300 forest rangers per region. Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri recently said, "Imagine an area the size of Mindanao with only 1,800 rangers and you get the alarming picture."

In the coming year, the executive and legislative departments will have to get together and agree on either a total logging ban or a selective one. At the same time, a nationwide reforestation program has to be adopted, funded and continuously carried out. Perhaps the help of non-government and civic organizations could be enlisted in the massive effort. The strictest safeguards have to be adopted to insure that the funds are used only for reforestation and not frittered away in "administrative costs" and graft and corruption.

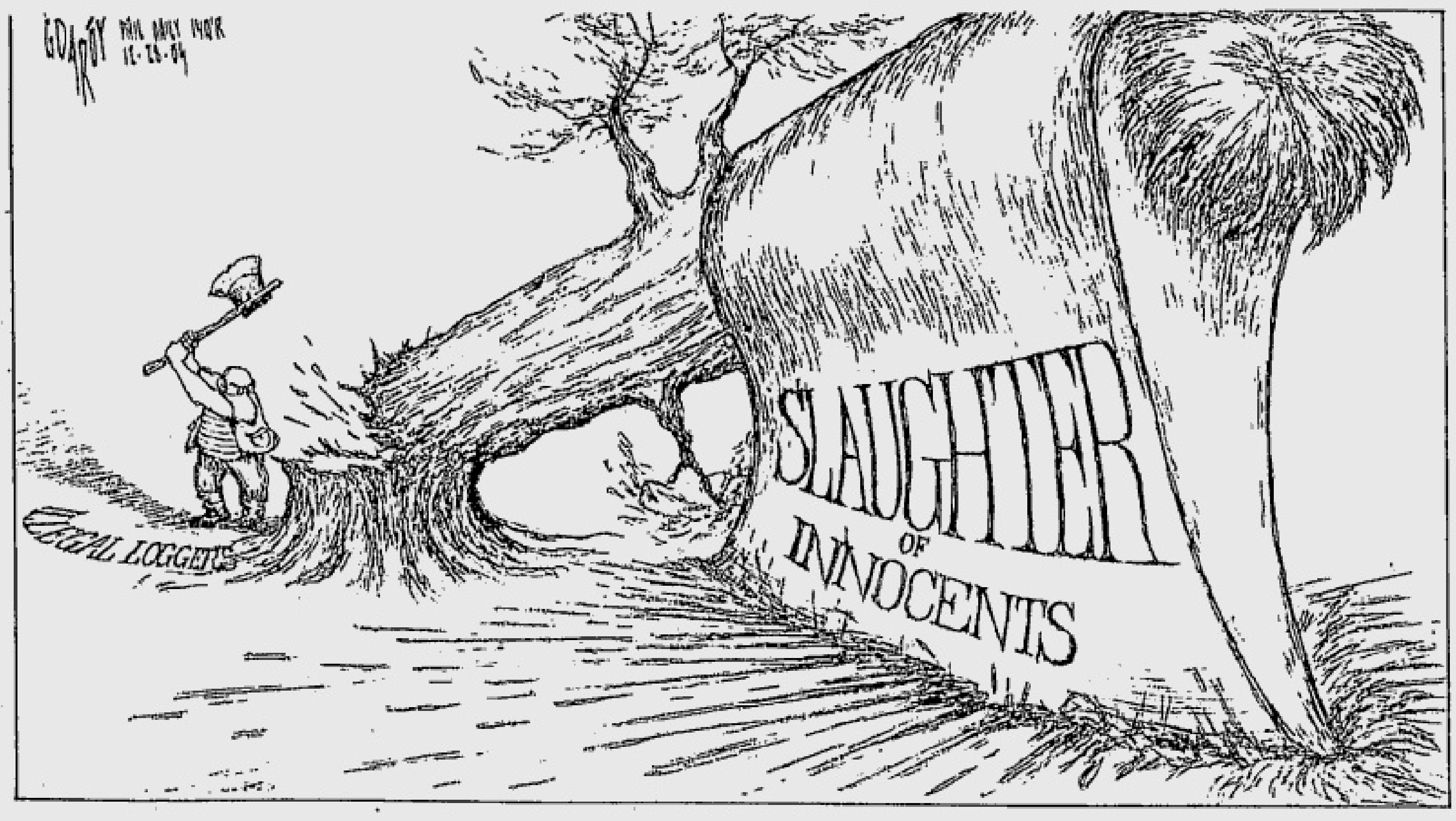
The death of KC de Venecia, the Speaker's daughter, in a fire that hit their mansion should focus national attention on the inadequacy of firefighting equipment and personnel of cities and towns. It is a shame and a disgrace that Makati, the country's financial center, does not even have asbestos suits for its firemen. Such suits are now standard issue in cities and towns in other countries.

De Venecia has said that he would introduce a measure to equip the firefighting units of cities and towns with asbestos suits. But more than that, a thoroughgoing study should be made of the equipment and personnel needs of all firefighting units so that enough funds can be allocated for them in the national budget for 2006.

The death of KC should also prompt home and building owners to reexamine their property to see if they comply strictly with the National Building Code. In their desire to protect themselves from robbers and intruders, some home and building owners may have built firetraps. If they have unwittingly done so, the errors as well as violations of the National Building Code should be corrected before the next fatal fire strikes.

A review of some of the major fires in the past 10 years or so would show that metal grilles prevented people in burning houses and buildings from escaping, with the result that they either burned to death or suffocated. In other cases, there were no fire exits or they were improperly constructed, or there were no fire alarm systems and fire hydrants. Among these fatal fires were: the Ozone Disco fire, with 160 dead; the fire at the New Imperial Hotel in Cotabato City in 1997, with 24 killed; the Lung Center fire in 1998, with 25 patients killed; the fire at the Settlement House in Paco in 1998, with 28 people dead (23 of them children); and the Quezon City Manor Hotel fire, with 25 dead.

In most of these fires the deaths could have been avoided, or at least the number of casualties could have been minimized had there been strict compliance with building regulations or had firemen been adequately equipped with the latest in firefighting equipment.



Recalling in song

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

EVEN before tidal waves hit Asia, were bitter lessons from typhoon-ravaged Aurora and Quezon fading from the media's radar screens? The INQUIRER's resident economist, former Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito, frets this is so.

Not quite. Striking stories come from a lady-lawyer. Now, a cloistered nun, her monastery, Karmelo, in Infanta, was turned into storm refuge overnight. Here are excerpts from Sister Lorenz Teresa Bautista's letter to other Carmelites:

"I'm writing this using a little kerosene lamp. 'Tringki' they call it here. Sunday before typhoon 'Yoyong' hit, Fr. Charlito Colendres delivered an Advent homily at Karmelo: '*Gumising ka.*' His target? Illegal logging that ravaged Aurora province.

"Monday, the weather turned nasty. A tricycle brought Father Cha. He couldn't believe what he saw: 548,000 board feet of lumber needing approval for release! A sawmill here? But logging is banned. Father was deeply affected and restless in his homily.

"In the afternoon, the winds howled. 'Lorenz, this is a storm,' Sister May says as we washed our clothes. The lights go out later. At 11:30 p.m., the phone rings. Very odd. 'Jedalyn?... Flooded up to the waist?' I hear prioress Sister Carmela answer. 'But the rains have stopped. What? You're on the second floor? *Paano yan?* OK. Take care.'

"Silence...shattered by the phone again. I join Sisters Lenie and Cora around the phone. 'Marianne? The waters are high? Lenie, she wants you to call Manila.' Soon, Sisters Lenie and Ester Marie report that the line is dead.

"Bad. How can the flood rise so fast? Karmelo is on the highest point in already elevated Barangay Tongohin. Five kilometers away, the town is already flooded. Water still rising. God save us.

"The prioress wakes the other sisters. Past midnight, we're all before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. Then, knocking at the parlor door. The first of 30 or so evacuees seek shelter. Sister Lenie opens the chapel.

"A truck comes later with more refugees. Others arrive on foot. Whole families, neighbors...the grown-ups stunned, children crying...clothes torn, wet, muddied, unshod...clinging to each other, to few rescued possessions...Karmelo Evacuation Center was born.

"We're enclosed nuns. We're not 'trained' to do this. But God worked in our ignorance.

"As evacuees poured in, each sister knew her role. Kitchen and endless cooking—Sisters John Mary and Cora; medical aid—Sisters Kate and Lenie; chapel and guest house evacuation center—Sisters May, Dulce and myself; and of course the command posts—Sisters Carmel and Esther Marie.

"By flashlights and *tringki*, we cook, turn the monastery inside out for clothes, bedding, medicines, etc: everything we can give. Christmas give-aways disappear, program costumes—finally our own clothes. Non-stop medical treatment; non-stop cooking, non-stop rummaging for clothes, slippers, etc.

"There are 'non stop-stories of grief.' With a fractured arm, Lucy tells of her daughter Therese, 9 years old, torn from her by rampaging floods. A woman pokes the mud with a pointed stick hoping the blooded tip will reveal the body of her daughter. It turns up a known illegal logger's corpse.

"I was giving a three-year-old boy a T-shirt. Wet, he clung tightly to the chapel grille gate. No matter how I gently coaxed him, he wouldn't let go. Trauma. He'd probably been told not to let go, lest he drown.

"There was no time to run... 'Drop a coin and as you bend down to pick it up, water is around you,' one evacuee explained. The town is submerged in 15 feet of water. Dead people, animals, bloated, decaying...huge logs everywhere. One report stands out: while trying to save children, Father Cha was hit by a log and swept to his death.

"Karmelo sisters were anxious for their families. But no one verbalized it. It was a luxury compared to our evacuees. We smiled to give people hope. At recreation, we tried to make our laughter carry over the lashing cruel wind to strengthen them. But at Mass, we couldn't help but cry. Yet, never did Karmelo sacrifice prayer. We prayed the divine office faithfully, singing, chanting, pauses. No short cuts.

"But water and mud now laps the monastery driveway. A log bangs against our overflowing creek. At 7 p.m., we're told to expect Signal 4. On retiring, I say a final prayer of abandonment and gratitude. Will our eyes see tomorrow?

"The gift of a new day. Yoyong spared us. We check our refugees, sleepless but fine, thank God. They speak of 'good news': a baby was born at the evacuation center. These people are incredible.

"Seeing nuns cleaning up, the children help. Monday, they were at death's door. Eleven-year-old Wendy saved two sisters by clinging to them as flood water rose higher than their house. Here she was sweeping, making no big deal.

"Help is now coming in. Choppers can be seen over our skies. The sisters have nothing left to give. The people need more than prayers this Christmas...something to use, eat, wear...

"There are reasons to get mad...really mad. (Unlike Asia's tidal waves), this calamity was man-made. We will all stand before God someday.

"But there are reasons for hope too: truly good people who helped. Perhaps, their stories will see light someday.

"Danny who kissed the body of his four-year-old daughter Casai, before burying her in a mass grave, composes songs. He might capture these events better in song. He said he'd try."

(*E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph*)

Touch of class

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

OVER THE PAST couple of weeks, since FPJ died, I've heard and read a lot of stories about Da King's generosity, a generosity matched only by a ferocious desire to remain anonymous in the face of it. He apparently forbade his fellow actors, whom he was with when he did the things he did, from talking about it. He specifically forbade his publicists from writing about it or making it known in any way. A proscription that extended even to when he ran for president. He refused to make his acts of giving known, though his publicists were naturally dying to broadcast them.

I don't know how much of the stories is true, but if only a tenth of it is so, then the man truly deserves to be sorely missed. He has shown decency over and above the call of duty. Which strikes a monumental contrast with the way we do things today.

His death seems to have released his friends from their vow of silence. Niño Muhlach was the one who suggested that FPJ might have suffered from stroke from exhausting himself while helping to prepare the goods to be given out to the storm victims of Quezon. Apparently, he had been thinking aloud to friends how the residents of Quezon were going to get by. What a time for the storms to have happened, he was heard to have said, which was just before Christmas. This was supposed to be the happiest time in this country. So he had done his bit, even lending a personal touch to the relief work by doing part of the physical work himself.

But as was his wont, he had given strict orders for it not to be talked about. He would have visited Quezon, Muhlach said, except that he feared it would be given a political spin. He didn't like that, he wasn't like that.

I might have thought this was an exaggeration if I had not caught that report by Aladdin Bacolodan in the news. Bacolodan had gone to the place where FPJ spent his last moments on earth, the studio where he gasped his last while hosting a party. In a corner of the studio was a huge pile of goods that FPJ had been collecting, which reportedly cost him a pretty penny and which he meant to distribute to the typhoon victims. None of the goods carried a label, least of all FPJ's name, on them. The cartons were unmarked completely. Based on his interviews with people close to FPJ, Bacolodan reported that FPJ was like that: he refused to advertise himself when he gave.

A friend of mine, a musician personally testified to the simplicity of the man. In the 1970s, he recounted, FPJ bought a recording studio from Jose Mari Gonzalez to bail him out of dire straits, but didn't quite know what to do with it. So he got musicians to run the place, my friend among them. On occasion, he said, FPJ would drop by at night, beer in hand, and say, "*Erap* (he called everybody erap), *pwede ba kong umistambay dito?* (Do you mind if I hang around?)" Of course he didn't mind, my friend recalled laughing, it was his place. FPJ, my friend said, would look over his shoulders—my friend would be making arrangements and preparing accompaniments to songs in a musical variety show—which made him a little nervous. After a couple of hours, FPJ would shake his head and say, "That is all very complicated to me, you guys are geniuses." Then he would take his leave, "*Mauna na ko, erap,*" and sneak out quietly.

The beer was something he had in common with Nick Joaquin. He was at least speaking out of conviction when he made that ad for San Miguel.

There are scores of stories like that, other people, high and low, but mainly low, swearing he was a good man. There were fellow actors he rescued from their quandaries, stuntmen whose hospital bills he paid for, and complete strangers, among them dwellers of slum areas, whom he visited regularly and gave to. All the waiters who knew him testify to the abundance of tips he gave, often borrowing money when he ran out of it after closing a bar down.

It's a blast of fresh air in a stale room. It's not just an Old World quirkiness or quaintness, it's an absolute blessing in a world given to egotism and self-advertisement. I remember only a few weeks ago seeing the host of one of those TV programs purporting to help the needy (I will not name her in deference to Christmas) descending on a hovel in a slum in Metro Manila with gifts. She wore a black T-shirt that had her name emblazoned on it, in case we forgot it, which is not that easy given her sheer ubiquity on TV and radio. A camera with blazing lights trailed after her while she spoke in unctuous tones, making sure no one overlooked her mission of charity there. If this country had snow, she would probably have rented a sleigh.

There ought to be a code of ethics for programs like this. Rosa Rosal did things a lot more subtly.

I remember as well GMA's campaign ads—they were campaign ads, paid for by our money through the PCSO—showing her braving the floods, distributing relief goods and wearing a pained expression while beholding the swath of destruction left by a storm. Well, people who are genuinely assailed by the spectacle of horror do not make it a point to have themselves photographed in that state. They grieve silently, flailed by conscience and not framed by the camera. And they go on to do everything in their power to help the desperate—anonymously. There is no giving where the giver does not disappear in the act of giving. The other kind is just PR.

I don't know if FPJ would have made a good president. I do know that he would have given this boorish nation some lessons in good manners and right conduct. I do know he would have given this jaded nation a reason to believe the exalted shall be humbled and the humble exalted.

I do know he would have given our much cheapened lives a touch of class.

What a year

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WE in this country haven't recovered yet from the various calamities that hit our eastern seaboard, as well as from the personal tragedies that affected a number of families, when lo and behold, a calamity hits our region once more. The most powerful earthquake in 40 years and the fifth strongest since 1900, registering 9 magnitude on the Richter scale, hit the Southeast Asian region last Sunday, the day after Christmas. This in turn triggered massive tidal waves that killed more than 17,000 people in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Malaysia and Thailand. Among the hardest hit was the paradise resort of Phuket in southern Thailand, a major tourist destination in our region, where tragedy and calamity seem farthest from the tourists' mind.

* * *

The year 2004 has been, to borrow the words of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, an "annus horribilis." Japan's Prime Minister Koizumi noted the string of calamities that have visited the Asian region, including Japan. Even Filipinos, learning of this recent string of calamities, found one another asking for the meaning of all the tragedies that hit this year. As the year ends, those afflicted in the countries hit by the earthquake and tidal waves can only brace themselves and seek comfort in the help of the international community. It is times like these when we turn to the Lord who directs the destinies of men and nations.

* * *

Yesterday I detailed some good deeds that help reinforce our faith in one another. Here's another one.

Teresita P. Valerio of Muelle de Binondo, Manila, wrote in reaction to an earlier item here about the good deeds of the Knights of Malta, which were recalled in connection with the visit of a ranking dignitary from the Knights. Valerio says she can relate to this group, as she grew up at the St. Anthony's Home for Girls on Legarda Street in Manila, run by the nuns of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, from 1959 to 1969. Valerio claims that it was in that home where she got her good education, enabling her to become the person that she is today. She remembers how they would celebrate the Knights of Malta, their home's benefactor, every June 24th. "We wore our red checkered dresses and red ribbons, and presented our songs and dances for our benefactors, after which followed the giving of goodies," she recalls. Thus, it was timely, she says, to read about the Knights. "To the good Knights of Malta, my beautiful memories of your kindness and goodness have remained in my heart through the years. May your tribe increase a hundred-fold and may God bless you all."

* * *

As the old year ends and we face the new year, let me send you, dear readers, more good thoughts and wishes. One of them is a poem my husband is particularly fond of and whose author is unknown. He read this gem of a poem to his former colleagues at the Philippine National Oil Co. early last September, during the farewell party for him given by the employees. Here it is:

**"I wish you enough sun/ to keep your attitude bright,/
I wish you enough rain/
to appreciate the sun more.
I wish you enough happiness/
to keep your spirit alive,/
I wish you enough pain/
so that the smallest joys in life/
appear much bigger./
I wish you enough gain/
to satisfy your wanting.
I wish you enough loss/
to appreciate all that you possess./
I wish you enough hellos/
to get you through the final goodbye.**

* * *

Among the treasured gifts I received this Christmas was a recently published book on a Japanese heroine in war-torn Philippines named Masue Masuda Almazan. The book, titled "Masay, A Woman of Selfless Love—A Japanese Heroine in War-Torn Philippines, 1941-1945," was edited by Fr. Dave Clay of the Columban Fathers, who is better known as the chaplain of the Retrouvaille Healing Ministry for failing marriages.

Father Clay, who has a great devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, wrote in his introduction that he first heard about Masay, as Masue Masuda was fondly called, from John S. Fontillas. John told him that the Blessed Mother appeared to a Japanese lady in San Narciso, Zambales, during the war. Quite excited by this info, Clay, who also served in Zambales in the late '60s and '70s, began looking into her life and learned that Masay, despite her young husband's murder in September 1942 at the hands of a fellow Filipino, still persisted in helping numerous Filipinos escape torture and death from the Japanese forces. She served the Japanese Imperial Army as interpreter, since she was fluent in English and Ilokano and even knew a little Tagalog, and with this facility of communication she secured the release of hundreds of Filipinos.

* * *

Father Clay learned that one day during the war, Masay, returning home late from the Japanese garrison in San Narciso, where she spent many hours trying to save Filipinos from torture and death, saw "the most beautiful lady I have ever seen" from the steeple of the San Sebastian Church, as she entered it. Curiously, Masay was a Buddhist while her husband was an Aglipayan. Wrote Father Clay: "As you read this book, you may get the same feeling I got—the feeling of happiness, especially during these days of fear, terrorism and violence, and hatred. Masay teaches all of us the power of love and forgiveness; and perhaps our good God rewarded her by sending His mother to console her. Why not?"

For inquiries on this book, call 913-6015, or fax 913-6385, or cell 09189034523.

* * *

PR man Reli German wrote me to say that those who have AXN channel on their cable TV must have come across its constant plug for its "Hollywood Bonanza" promotion offering winning viewers an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong. It's an attractive promo, says Reli, except that in its ad, the former crown colony is referred to as the "Pearl of the Orient," a phrase that has long been associated with the Philippines. What do you call this, an oversight or outright tag-grabbing? Reli asks.

Proximity and tragedy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JUST when we thought 2004 and the string of disasters and tragedies the year brought us were drawing to a close, it turns out the year had yet another nasty surprise for us.

The morning after Christmas Day, news reports told us about an earthquake that had hit in "Southeast Asia," provoking nothing stronger than curiosity because we hadn't felt so much as a stir when the tremor supposedly hit. Later in the day, the news turned grimmer, as reports of the earthquake causing tsunamis that engulfed coastlines through Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, India and as far as the Maldives brought us images of ruined villages and rampaging floodwaters. As the night wore on, news anchors of both BBC and CNN tried valiantly to keep their frustration in check as downed communication lines prevented their reporters from fleshing out their sketchy reports. Still, the facts that emerged from the confusion and the daze of the disaster were heartbreaking enough. As midnight approached, the death toll stood at an astounding 7,000.

But the news would turn decidedly dark by the next morning. We woke up to even more dramatic footage of the affected areas, and to the ghastly fact that the death toll had more than doubled overnight, reaching, by most counts, a gut-wrenching 14,000.

Fourteen thousand! The figure boggles the mind and cramps the imagination. How does one measure such grief? And how can families and communities, villages, towns, entire provinces and countries cope with such massive loss of life?

The story even had a global dimension. Tragically, the Christmas season, which coincides with winter in temperate climes, brings hundreds, if not thousands, of foreign tourists to Asian beach resorts. Phuket in Thailand is a particularly popular destination, and it was here where hundreds of tourists, who expected nothing more terrible than a sunburn and several days' worth of hangovers from their holidays, ended up dead, missing, injured and for those lucky enough to survive without too much bodily harm, traumatized and bringing home nasty memories.

* * *

JUST when I thought the earthquake and tsunami would just remain a story, far removed from any personal connection, a friend sends a text message asking for prayers for a business acquaintance who had gone to Phuket for the Christmas holidays and ended up with his three sons missing, though he, his wife and daughter survived unharmed. The story has suddenly become personal, though twice removed.

"Proximity" is one of the elements of news, and when I'm giving a talk on news writing, I often use the example of a bus filled with passengers which falls off a cliff. If the accident happens in another country, I say, we may feel fleeting sympathy but unless there's a Filipino aboard the bus, we quickly move on to the next story. Should the accident occur in the Philippines, but in a province hundreds of kilometers away, we feel a twinge of concern, these are countryfolk who died in the mishap, after all, and someone we know may have been involved, but the chances of that happening are slim. But if the bus was on its way to our hometown, and the tragedy took place just outside the town limits, we would certainly be alarmed and may even rush out to visit the site. It's almost certain, after all, that someone we know was in that bus.

But there's another way in which "proximity" works. I was in Morocco, almost 24 hours away by plane from the Philippines, when typhoons "Winnie" and "Yoyong" hit. When CNN first broadcast the news, I was worried and concerned, but after calling home and being assured my family was fine, the worry quickly receded. When fellow travelers condoled with me on the mounting death toll, I thanked them and said flooding and mudslides had escalated typhoon damage ever since deforestation became a major problem.

Only when I got back and saw for myself photos and TV footage of the devastation in Aurora and Quezon did I begin to appreciate the extent of the suffering our countryfolk had gone through. And only after reading accounts of survivors did I realize the depth of suffering and sorrow visited upon them. Distance does have a way of dulling the pain.

* * *

SO WILL "proximity," or the lack of it, affect the way we react and respond to the large swathe of devastation created by the tsunamis of the day after Christmas. I would guess this disaster would elicit more sympathy from Filipinos than, say, the earthquake which destroyed the ancient Iranian city of Bam about a year ago. After all, there but for the grace of the land masses of the Indonesian islands, the deadly tsunami could very well have washed up on our shores, too.

It would be easy to turn away from the extraordinary tragedy that visited our neighbors. After all, we can always say that we are ourselves just recovering from our own string of natural disasters that has in fact taxed our capability to respond to the needs of our unfortunate brothers and sisters.

But I do hope we Filipinos, or perhaps our government, can respond in some way to the crying need of the countries and people swamped by the tsunamis that rippled across the Indian Ocean. However token, our response could symbolize our solidarity with all suffering peoples who share this corner of the globe and a common experience with poverty, with whom we share, in fact, a shared lot as countries on the rim of the "ring of fire," all equally vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.

It shouldn't take much to make us realize that we are safe, for now, only by the grace of a benevolent God, and that the proper way of showing gratitude for being spared is to feel for those who have not been so lucky.

A message of hope

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MANY of you have heard of Carmen Valdes, once Sister Jude of the Assumption and now back to being Pinky Valdes and working on her doctoral dissertation on spirituality at the University of California at Berkeley, "The Imagination of Hope in the Religious Poetry of Denise Levertov." Although Pinky is doing a hundred and one things, she kindly consented to answer some questions relevant to the Christmas story. She says, "As adult Christians, we grow in our spirituality and we do so by asking different questions. To question does not mean to lose faith. To question is our responsibility so as to live our faith with more depth." To that I say amen.

(Since I am allowed only 5,000 or so characters with spaces and Pinky's answer has more than 12,000, I figured I'd give it to you in small doses. In the meantime, I am wishing you and yours the loveliest, most peaceful and kindest Christmas. May the coming year grant us all a diet of less politics and more service to the people. God bless.)

Question: The evangelists, Mark and John, do not mention the Nativity at all while Matthew and Luke disagree on the details of the event. In Matthew, for example, the Annunciation is made known to Joseph in a dream by an angel while Luke's is to Mary. What logical explanation is given for these discrepancies?

Answer: Mark is the first Gospel in about 67 A.D., Matthew's in about 90 A.D., Luke a few years after and finally John's Gospel. There were many more gospels written, but the Church chose to canonize these four. Before Mark, there is a text referred to as Q (for "Quelle" meaning "source") used by both Matthew and Luke. They read each other's accounts and deliberately quoted from previous texts. So the question to ask is: Why did they write their accounts when someone else had already written about Jesus? The answer is obvious, of course. They had something more to say. And they had communities that needed a different approach. Also they had their own insights that wanted to communicate.

Q: With regard to the virgin birth, was Matthew working on a Greek mistranslation? In the Hebrew Book of Isiah, the Messiah would be born of "a young girl," not a virgin. How important is the distinction?

A: You are right, the text speaks of a "young girl"; it doesn't say virgin. Again, the distinction is only important to people who understand it to be important. There is a whole theology behind this, but to question to ask is this: If Mary were not a virgin would Jesus be less "God"? In other words, could Jesus be conceived as God and Man through human sex?

Q: In Matthew's account, Jesus is born at home in Bethlehem and the family then flees to Egypt because of Herod's plan to murder the first born. None of this is mentioned in Luke. In his version, Mary and Joseph are in Nazareth because of the census ordered by Augustus. Can it be established with any certitude where the Messiah was really born and how vital is it to link Jesus with David?

A: The first Christians (and the name Christian appeared later) were Jews. It was important for the evangelists to establish Jesus as Jewish and the Messiah. They did not start out to be a different church. They thought they found the Messiah which was the fulfillment of their faith. So they didn't see any need to abandon their Jewish faith—they were living its fulfillment. The link to David was critical to this community because the Messiah was to come from the house of David.

Q: Does the new exegesis tie up Moses and Jesus as his successor?

A: Absolutely. Jesus is the new Moses.

Q: There is no historical evidence that there was an empire-wide census taken at the time Jesus was born. Quirinius, a Syrian governor, conducted a census a dozen years later. What then was Luke's purpose in framing Christ's birth in this context?

A: The author of Luke was an extremely well-educated man. He wove the story to speak specific truths. We have no absolute certainty about any specific historical events. Luke wanted to say that Jesus was a king (and remember "king" was a powerful and radical word to use…the Romans had a lot to say about this) and that Jesus would be king to the gentiles too. Anyone reading Luke must admit that he has a sense of drama. His narrative is engaging. He spoke to a group of people using signs and symbols they understood. He definitely used Mark and Matthew, but he had his own agenda and probably his own sources. The question to ask is: What happens to a story 20 years after the event? What is carried through and what is embellished and for what reason or end?

(*To be continued.*)

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

A Pinoy Christmas

I NEVER imagined myself not spending Christmas in the Philippines, much less spending it in a country like China. While the Philippines has the longest and busiest holiday season in the world, China must have one of the loneliest Christmases anywhere in the world.

YOUNG BLOOD

Chloe Wong

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Even as Christmas Day drew close, it was business as usual in Beijing. There was nothing like a Christmas rush in the Chinese capital, only the regular rush to work and school by swarms of people racing on their bikes. There were hardly anything to remind anyone that Christmas was near except for the decor in some of restaurants. The Chinese obviously do not celebrate Christmas, except for some teenagers who try hard to act like Westerners.

It's hard for a Filipino like me to believe that it's already that time of the year. No Christmas trees, no children caroling and no midnight sales. I did not even realize that it was already December until it snowed one morning, and I had to put on more clothes to keep warm. It was a good thing Christmas fell on a Saturday, otherwise I would have had to attend classes.

I was already prepared to spend a quiet Christmas, until I got invitations to Christmas parties hosted by different Filipino groups in the city. The biggest Christmas party was organized by the Philippine Embassy in Beijing. The event was attended by many Filipinos living in Beijing.

I never thought that there was a significant number of Filipinos in the city until I went to that Christmas party. And while Filipinos in Japan and Hong Kong are mostly entertainers and domestic helpers, respectively, those in China are into all kinds of occupations. There are English teachers, singers and musicians, hotel managers, car technicians, journalists and business executives. They earn money for their families while doing our country proud. There is even a large group of students in the city. And everyone wants to be with their *kababayans* during this season.

The embassy succeeded in putting up a Christmas party that was no different from the ones we had back home. There were Pinoy foods like *adobo, caldereta, puto* and *pancit bihon*. There were games, gifts and raffles. The emcees cracked some good old Pinoy jokes to liven up the party. It was a typical Pinoy Christmas party except that it was perhaps more "Pinoy" than those held in Manila.

I think this had something to do not with the celebration itself but how it was celebrated. The Philippine ambassador once told me that Filipinos are more nationalistic when they are abroad than when they are back home. I could not understand what he meant, until I experienced it myself during the party. It was not because we sang "Lupang Hinirang" to kick off the Christmas party—something that I am sure never happens in the Philippines—but was how everybody sang it, with the kind of pride and fervor people sing their national anthems when a countryman is awarded a gold medal in the Olympics. It was not because everyone made it a point to greet everybody else "*Maligayang Pasko*," but how everyone said it and meant it, without awkwardness or reservation. While Filipinos sing and dance to the latest tunes back home, the party was kept enlivened by songs like "Annie Batungbacal" and "Manila" and other all-time favorite Pinoy hits, some of which I heard for the first time. It was not because the songs were played by Filipinos but it was how our *kababayan* missed the old songs and clamored for them that made the party more Pinoy than usual.

I realized further the depth of the Filipino's love for country when people started giving money for the thousands of landslide victims in Quezon and Aurora. Some raffle winners auctioned off their prizes and donated the proceeds to the relief effort in the calamity-damaged areas. While normally people only think of food, gifts and fun during the holidays, this party was not just another Christmas get-together but became a party for a cause. This is what made this particular Christmas celebration more meaningful. And it made me proud to be a Filipino.

Although I miss spending the holidays at home, being away makes me realize that what makes Christmas so dear to my heart is the Filipino spirit that lives within me. I believe this is true not only of me but also of the millions of Filipinos who have to spend Christmas away from their families. They may not be able to go to the Simbang Gabi, they may not have a *noche buena* or partake of *puto bumbong*, but spending Christmas with fellow Filipinos and singing Jose Mari Chan's "Christmas in our hearts" made me feel like I were home. I just had to let the "Pinoy" inside me out and that was enough to carry me through the holiday season. For it does not matter where one is: in the Philippines or anywhere in the world, anyone can be Filipino and be proud of it, Christmas or no Christmas.

The Filipino in me made me realize that Christmas in Beijing cannot be as warm and busy and exciting as it is in Manila but we can make it a Pinoy Christmas just the same.

Chloe Wong, 23, is a student in Beijing. This article was lifted from her travel journal.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

THEY SAID

Sharing of risks

"The risks must be shared, otherwise, the multinationals will begin to look as if profit is all that they are about, and will themselves stand a good chance of seeing their returns disappear altogether should the economy fall further, a condition to which they will have contributed by their insistence on maintenance of their own initial investment expectations despite major changes in the economic environment."

—Michael Clancy, chair of the Philippine Business Leaders Forum Inc., urging government to be firm in dealing with foreign investors and not sacrifice national interest

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Is it really the curriculum?

THIS is in response to the INQUIRER editorial "What is PMA teaching?" (PDI, 11/30/04)

I am a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, Class of 1976—and I am proud to be one. Despite media reports about the thievery and sexual misconduct of some PMA alumni, I am still convinced that the majority of its graduates have, through the years, stood by our motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty. And for this reason I take pride in the fact that my eldest son joined the PMA and his younger brother is going to follow his footsteps very soon.

Right after the failed Oakwood Mutiny in July 2003, I was a guest at the Kapihan sa Dipolog, in my capacity as deputy brigade commander of the 101st Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry (Tabak) Division, Philippine Army, based in Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte. In that forum, I was practically "grilled." Among the topics was the revision of the PMA curriculum, the need of which was premised on the prevalent corruption in the military and on the so-called messianic complex of some of its graduates.

If we go by this line of thought, we should also revise the curriculum of the University of the Philippines and those of other prestigious schools.

On the rightist tendencies of PMA graduates, this is what I said: "You may not be aware of it but there is no other school in this country where students are trained to live by the Honor Code which dictates that a cadet should not lie, cheat or steal nor tolerate the conduct of the same. Perhaps, it is also the only school in the country where the students are taught to offer their lives for their country, if necessary, in the performance of their role as protectors of the people and the state. Many of our alumni lived by the Honor Code until the end, and many of them offered the supreme sacrifice from their first taste of battle during World War II and in our recent battles against the enemies of the state. And if we are to revise the curriculum of the PMA mainly because of the perceived rightist tendencies of some of its graduates, then why should we not also revise the curriculum of UP where leftist ideologies are also prominent among many of its alumni?

On the issue of corruption, should we not also scrutinize the curricula of UP, Ateneo, La Salle and Assumption, considering that some prominent men and women involved in government irregularities and scandals—such as, the PEA-Amari deal, the grossly overpriced Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, the mismanaged state-owned and -controlled firms, tax credit scam, drug trafficking, gambling, smuggling, etc.—come from these very prestigious schools?

Now, is it really the curriculum or the environment after graduation?

—COL JOSE F GAMOS INF (GSC) PA
PMA "Magilas" Class Of 1976,
PAOVILLE, Fort Bonifacio

Suggestions for SSS

I AM writing this letter in reaction to the item, "National tragedy in the making" (Letters, PDI, 11/26/04). As a "victim" of the Social Security System in its ongoing pensioners' audit, I have some unsolicited but common sense suggestions. I have sent these suggestions in a letter to the SSS president and the Malabon SSS branch manager. I am unaware of their reaction.

1. Improve the pathetic SSS mailing system. A computer-generated SSS letter dated Oct. 14, 2004 is postmarked Nov. 11, 2004 in Quezon City and Nov. 19, 2004 in Caloocan City. It was delivered to the addressee in Malabon City on Nov. 22, 2004. The computer-generated letter took 28 days to be postmarked in Quezon City and 40 days to be delivered. Something must be awfully wrong. If the SSS calls this an isolated case, it is in a state of total denial.

2. Annually update the pensioners' status and addresses.

3. Check with the banks the current addresses of the pensioners and update or countercheck the information with SSS records.

4. Undertake an information campaign (radio, TV, broadsheet and tabloids) to encourage people to report the death of pensioners whose pensions are withdrawn by other persons on their behalf.

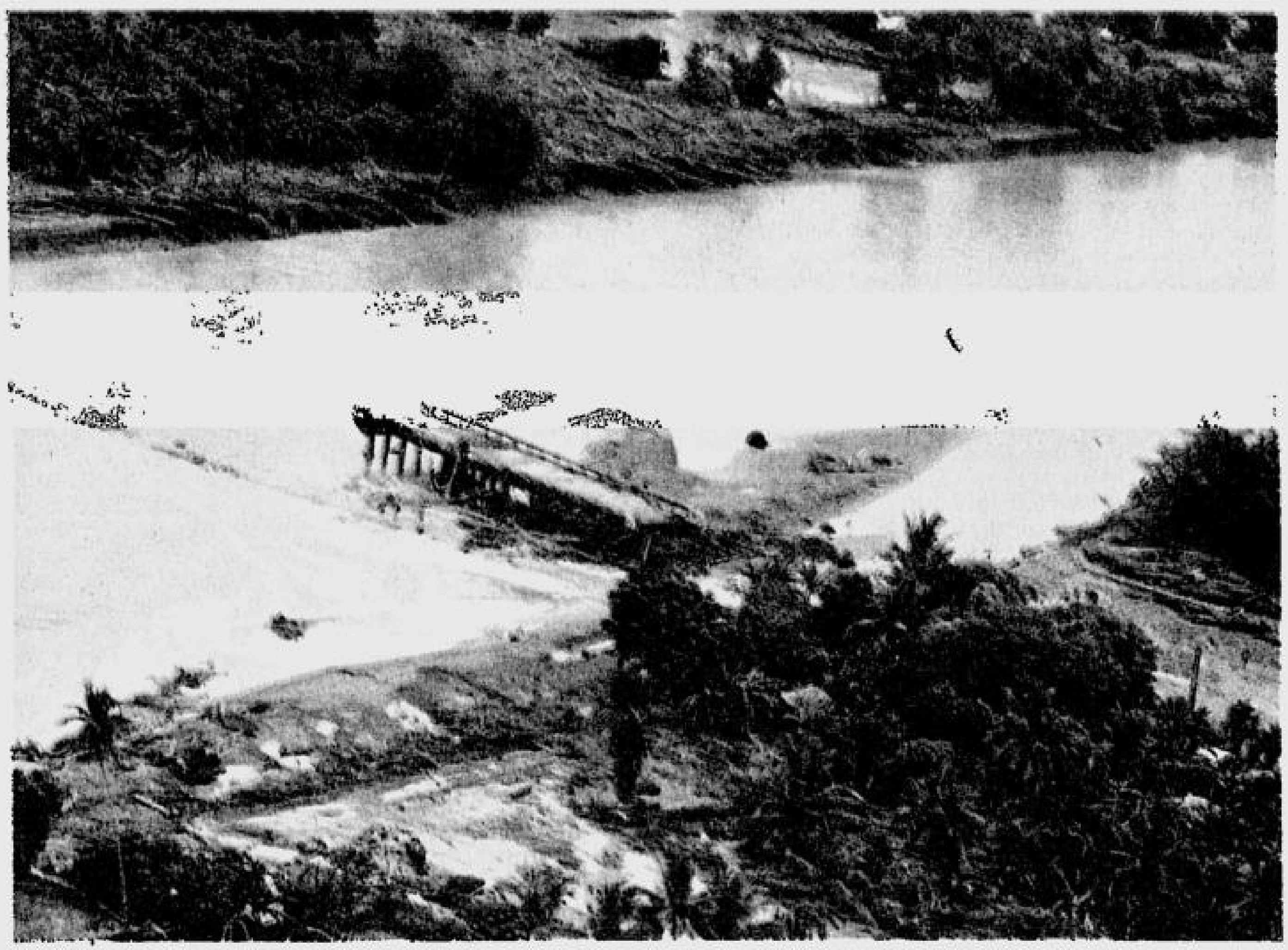
5. Send a second, third and final reminders with very clear warning that pension-remittances will be suspended or stopped should the pensioner fail to update his or her records with an SSS office.

6. Advise SSS members of the coming pensioners' audit with clear warning that pensions will be suspended or even stopped should the pensioners fail to update their records.

7. Restore immediately the "suspended" pensions of those who have updated their records within the prescribed period. The interest paid by the victimized members should be charged against the salaries of erring SSS officers and employees; the members should not be penalized for the inefficiency of the SSS people.

8. Restore immediately the pension-remittances of those who didn't receive the letters if SSS has no proof of their posting or delivery. The burden of proof should be on the SSS.

—ERNIE IGNACIO
erncign@ispx.com.ph



Logging is not the problem

THE RECENT disaster that befell Quezon province is sad but not unexpected. The frequent strong typhoons that annually batter the towns of Infanta, Nakar and Real have been taken to be "normal" by those who are living in the Pacific coastlines, in the flood-prone plains and in the logged-over mountain slopes. The money spent on the all-weather Manila-Infanta Highway and the Infanta-Nakar Bridge has been partly washed away.

It has been said that the national government has plans for a "New Eastern Metropolis" that would spur economic development toward East Luzon. An all-weather containerized seaport would cut sea transport cost across the Pacific. An airport would allow faster travel by air across the Sierra Madre Mountain range. A train tunnel connecting Western Metro Manila and Eastern Metro Infanta would bring people and cargo to their respective destinations—at the least cost.

I hold the view that logging is not the problem. Rather, "Metro Infanta" is the way to economic development. While other countries are helping us in this our hour of need, the government—local and national—together with non-government organizations should unite to turn the recent adversity into prosperity.

—ERNESTO C. DEL CASTILLO
manilaman@edsamail.com.ph

Nationwide campaign on fire safety

WE should have briefings on fire safety tips nationwide—in schools, offices and everywhere—over a 10-minute period every year, complemented with the necessary learning materials. Representatives from the local fire departments would be in the best position to give them.

Firemen should also learn a lesson from what happened in the De Venecia residence: fire exits in houses could be locked or blocked. So firemen must be equipped with all tools needed to get through blocked passages especially if they have to rescue people trapped inside. Each second is important. There should be no waste of time. Smoke alarms, fire extinguishers (their number depending on the building), and yearly briefings on safety tips would be a big help in preventing fires and most especially in saving people's lives. Our sincerest condolences to Speaker Jose De Venecia and family.

—TERESITA UY
Auckland, New Zealand

Second-class citizen

I WOULD like to air this personal experience to call the attention of the concerned officials so they can prevent this incident from happening again.

I went to the airport to fetch a friend from India who was arriving via Singapore Airlines. The plane arrived on schedule and after several minutes its passengers were in the arrival area, but my friend was nowhere to be seen. I asked around and someone directed me to proceed to the Singapore Airlines office on the third floor and check if my friend was in the manifest and was indeed on board that flight. The security by the door was kind enough to let me in. However, inside the airlines' office, when I inquired about my friend, the male desk attendant just asked for his surname (no first name) and within a second or so told me there was no such name in that flight's list of passengers. Then he very quickly and nonchalantly turned away.

It turned out that my visitor was on that flight. I couldn't immediately locate him because he had proceeded to answer a call of nature. I wonder if the Singaporean Airlines attendant actually checked the right list.

Anyway, I left the airlines' office feeling downhearted. Would he have behaved that way if I were a foreigner? Would he have treated me that way if I were not an ordinary citizen but a VIP? I wouldn't know the answers to these questions. But I felt like being treated as a second-class citizen.

I have to say something about this if only to move the concerned authorities and parties to put a stop to this practice; and so that others who have been treated similarly could muster the courage to denounce this practice.

Already, I have heard of *balikbayans*, who have worked hard abroad to earn for their starving families here, being asked by fellow Filipinos as they enter the airport to shell some dollars for "help."

—JENA ILACAD
m.troie@mailcity.com

Untapped BIR power, why

MAJ. GEN. CARLOS Garcia was able to withdraw millions of his bank deposits because of a tactical error made by the Ombudsman. The latter should have announced Garcia's suspension and the issuance of a freeze order simultaneously, thus preventing the banks from allowing the withdrawal.

The Ombudsman does not have to rely on the anti-laundering law to freeze the assets of any government official for unexplained wealth. For this, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has ample powers. The BIR has the power to issue a warrant of distraint and levy against persons or corporations to compel payment of back taxes. Which means that the BIR can seize or hold the property of a person or corporation until the taxes due are fully paid.

The fact that a government official has an unexplained wealth is a prima facie evidence that he is not paying the rightful amount of taxes. The BIR therefore can freeze his asset until the back taxes are collected.

It is surprising that the Ombudsman and the BIR are not coordinating in this regard. Even more surprising, the BIR does not exercise this power to collect back taxes worth billions of pesos from delinquent corporations.

Suspending government officials without freezing their assets at the same time will allow them to dispose of their assets, and the government will be left holding an empty bag. The erring government official may be fired from his position but as a private citizen he will still enjoy his ill-gotten wealth.

—NOEL PAGSUBERON
npagsuberon@yahoo.com

Treating public service as a profession

I READ with interest PDI's Dec. 13 editorial ("Singaporean virtue?"), particularly the advice of Singaporean Premier Lee Hsien Loong to President Macapagal-Arroyo on "paying our civil servants competitively." I agree with the editorial's observation that the "Singaporean virtue" has a lot to do with the excellent and well-functioning government the Singaporeans have. The same can be said of the Japanese government: the government agencies there are highly esteemed by the public.

Could not our political leadership adopt this strategic measure? I strongly believe that this measure will greatly improve our government, especially in serving the public. But simultaneously doing this across-the-board in all government agencies is certainly not feasible. The measure should be implemented gradually, starting with agencies providing essential services, such as the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines and the courts.

Together with the competitive pay, a system of performance and accountability should be institutionalized. Civil servants should be made to realize that they are paid well in order to perform well. A competitive pay tempered by accountability and responsibility could be the beginning in the long process of changing the cultural mind-set and attitude that public service is a reward. Public service could hopefully be treated as a profession.

—MANUEL FELIX G. ABEJO JR.
17 Engineering St., SSSNFH
North Fairview, Quezon City

Sincere farewell

I WAS deeply moved by the simple (sans superlatives, hysterics and dramatics) yet very sincere farewell of Jo-Ann Maglipon to Fernando Poe Jr., a national icon, especially of Philippine movie industry. (PDI, 12/19/04)

I and millions of other Filipinos, who got to know FPJ only from afar—through his movies and articles written about him—can only envy Maglipon for having the chance to personally know "Da King" himself. But just the same, we all loved FPJ dearly and somehow felt close to him. All of us felt a deep sense of loss with his passing.

Maglipon's article, which is an honest and heartfelt tribute to a man like FPJ, would be a good source of strength and joy for Susan Roces in the days to come.

—CYNTHIA DE CASTRO
Geneva, Switzerland

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

INQBOX

Dear Readers, Text us your comments, suggestions and views on today's news or how it was delivered. Tell us about the news you are interested in and the things you want improved in your favorite newspaper. Text INQUIRER <section keyword> name/city/message and send to 283 (Smart) or 2207 (Globe). The section keywords are indicated in the logo of each section.

What are your hopes and dreams for your family this Christmas and New Year?

For them 2 be in d best of health & happy always.
—**Ern Dancel**, *Urdaneta City*

Matiwasay na pamumuhay at kakayahang makatulong sa kapwa at sa bayan.
—**Nestor de Veyra**, *Palo, Leyte*

As everyone would usually want is having the whole family gather at Christmas eve, and a very prosperous New Year.
—**paul ganaban**, *bacolod*

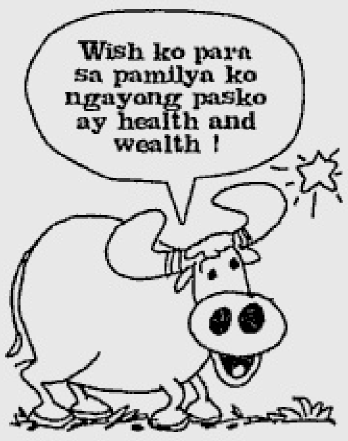
My hopes & dreams this Christmas for my family would be good health, peace, more blessings from our dear Lord.
—**marc mendoza**, *catbalogan*

My only hope & dream 4 my family dis Xmas & New Year is 2 win d lottery draw, and then we will travel.
—**Edwin B. Trinidad**, *davao*

hopes and dreams 4 xmas and d new year are of non-reality these days, they are like bubbles that cannot hold 4 a long time…
—**dan ballener**, *iloilo*

good health to my 2 kids and wife, as sickness will eat up our hard-earned money.
—**pepito capili**, *davao city*

76 virgins in paradise.
—**Al Yu**, *QC*


Wish ko para sa pamilya ko ngayong pasko ay health and wealth !

i hope the crooks & hypocrites especially in government receive d most painful karma possible…
—**trudis sapitan**, *malolos, bulacan*

i wish dat my family wud always be united through thick n thin despite all d problems we are facing.
—**beng**, *taguig*

good health, safety from masasamang loob, happiness & manageable wealth
—**agnes ang**, *navotas*

I'm hoping that this Christmas & for the New Year that my family would gain peace of mind, good health & success in our career…
—**MarBenRey Bactol**, *Quezon City*

whatever may happen, i hope that we could still afford to buy the inquirer everyday on top of our daily needs. Merry Christmas.
—**a. espiritu**, *tarlac*

good health. good luck. good life.
—**lanie b. samonte**, *calasiao, pangasinan*

hopes & dreams of happy &worth-remembering memories for the whole family.
—**jessie bilbao**, *koronadal*

Bountiful and prosperous new year!
—**John raymond babano**, *Roxas city*

hoping always to be in good shape, and dream that blessings be poured from now on.
—**joselito lao**, *davao city*

for better or worse, all i wish for—is for us to still have each other thru the new year.
—**vincent m. valdez**, *bagbag, qc*

Hoping that the Lord grant them His infinite mercy, good health, and to live their life as true christians to please GOD.
—**Roger V. Dulay**, *Q.C.*

hope we can migr8 to another country, & this will mean free opportunity 4 other people hu wil be left in d country.
—**asley Villanueva**, *angeles city*

that a fairy godmother give me a cellphone because am just texting my answers 2 Question of d Wk from a friend's mobile unit.
—**gerry singson**, *vigan city*

My hope and dreams for my family this x-mas and new year is to become joyful, despite the economic crisis. We celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.
—**Jovanie I. Amador**, *Taguig*

May d Philippine economy recover so that salaries be increased and promised bonuses be delivered for d benefit of my marginalized family.
—**Thomas Sumbad**, *Vigan*

hoping 4 d geofarm family 2 commit services 2 their fellow beings, enough work 2 do, & strength enough 2 d work. hoping 4 a good harvest and keep on plowing 4 another new year!
—**elmer Guevara**, *urdaneta city*

More life & faith to serve God.
—**Antonio Taguinod**, *Antipolo City*

beautiful if you have done good things on earth. The best gift we can give to God is by sharing and helping our neighbors.
—**lorna barroga**, *makati city*

Prosperity, good health, love, peace and joy. Strong faith in our family, and strong faith in our country, despite the crisis we are facing. Sipag at tiyaga. Continued strength and perseverance. More blessings.
—**maria delos santos**, *Manila*

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Across the NATION
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Scandal hounds presidential Mansion

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo flew back to this city on Sunday for her traditional Baguio Christmas break after a year's absence only to stumble on a graft scandal involving her own household at the presidential Mansion.

Three of Ms Arroyo's Mansion employees, including her father's former cook, accused Mansion director Francisca Bistoyong-Rosquita of payroll padding, fraud and "disloyalty to the Republic."

Conrado Gatus, who served the late President Diosdado Macapagal, Elisa Banagan and Henry Subido claimed that Rosquita, Ms Arroyo's Cordillera political officer during the 1998 vice presidential campaign, appointed her relatives to key Mansion posts.

One of the relatives, a sister, supposedly took over the post of Lisa Pongas, a retired Mansion housekeeper, but had been getting salaries addressed to Pongas, they told Manuel Gaite, Malacañang deputy executive secretary for legal affairs, in a Dec. 2 complaint.

Adding insult to their injuries, the employees claimed that Rosquita also manipulated them into relinquishing part of their salaries to her for Mansion work that had no apparent sanctions from Malacañang.

'Loaned' ATM cards

Based on their own calculations, the employees claimed to have lost P42,900 from their automated teller machine accounts, after they "loaned" their ATM cards to Rosquita as "collateral" for cash advances she granted them in 2002.

They also accused Rosquita of cutting pine trees at the Mansion premises without securing the necessary permits.

The employees said they were eventually terminated from service this year, without their knowledge, because Palace officials characterized their employment as "co-terminus" with the previous administration.

Ms Arroyo entered a second term in office after winning the presidential elections last May. She assumed the post from ousted President Joseph Estrada in the Edsa II uprising in early 2001.

Rosquita denied all of these charges.

She said the Arroyos' own caretaker, who mans their Baguio home, is behind the accusations.

Nestor Banagan, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's senior aide, is the husband of Elisa Banagan, one of the complainants who were terminated early this year from the Mansion, she said.

Banagan had been eyeing her post for years, since she was reassigned to the Mansion, Rosquita claimed. "This is why the accusations are (bizarre) because we are all housekeepers really of the Mansion. There is nothing important about our positions (which will cause a territorial feud)," she said.

But the Mansion director admitted that confusion over Malacañang appointments after the Edsa II uprising is at the root of the scandal because these appointments are often refuted or recast by the Civil Service Commission.

Demotion

In his Nov. 4 affidavit, Gatus complained about being "demoted" without his knowledge, after the CSC downgraded his appointment.

Banagan made the same complaint in her Oct. 21 affidavit. "My greatest complaint is that my plantilla item of PSO (presidential staff officer) IV with salary grade 22 was demoted to PSO II salary grade 13. Civil service rules and regulations state that a demotion which is non-disciplinary presupposes a written consent from the demoted personnel (which I did not supply)," she said.

"I believe (Malacañang) should help correct this problems between the Palace appointing authorities and the CSC," Rosquita told the INQUIRER on Sunday.

But Gatus and the rest of the employees blamed Rosquita as well for the confusion, saying her recommendations as agency head added weight to CSC's final decisions regarding Ms Arroyo's appointees.

Rosquita said the series of termination orders being issued by the Palace was a consequence of Ms Arroyo's bureaucratic realignments following her election victory and the P200-billion state deficit.

But she said Ms Arroyo had already directed the Palace to investigate the Mansion squabble. "If this means I should go, I will willingly step down. But only after an investigation is made," Rosquita said.

"These accusations are not hurting me alone. They are hurting the President because all of the employees concerned here are all her trusted people," she said.

Hurting the President

Even the complainants acknowledged that leaking the feud to the INQUIRER may hurt the President more than Rosquita.

"We regret that things reached a point like this since we have been sending communications regarding (our complaints) but there (have been) no replies," read a handwritten note from the three complainants that was sent on Nov. 5 to secretary Jonathan Tenefrancia, legal officer of the Office of the Presidential Staff.

A mediator for the complainants told the INQUIRER that they had tried to reach out to the President through the presidential family but the disgruntled employees were unsuccessful.

German fears for life after suspects freed

MATI, Davao Oriental—A German trader based in Cateel town said he was wary of his security and that of his family after a local court granted temporary liberty to four individuals, who allegedly robbed him of half a million pesos a few weeks ago.

Andreas Steinl, 52, said the suspects have allegedly threatened to harm him.

"Now that the robbers are free, I was told that they were planning to kill me so the complaint against them will stop," he said.

Steinl said he regretted his decision to press charges against the suspects.

"Had I known that the local court would grant temporary liberty to the four robbers by allowing them to post a bail of P24,000 each, I would not have lodged a complaint anymore," said Steinl.

He said the robbers were his neighbors in Barangay Tinimbo in Cateel town.

Steinl said his fear is not without basis.

He cited the murder of German national Burkrat Muller, who was killed by unidentified suspects in Lupon town last month.

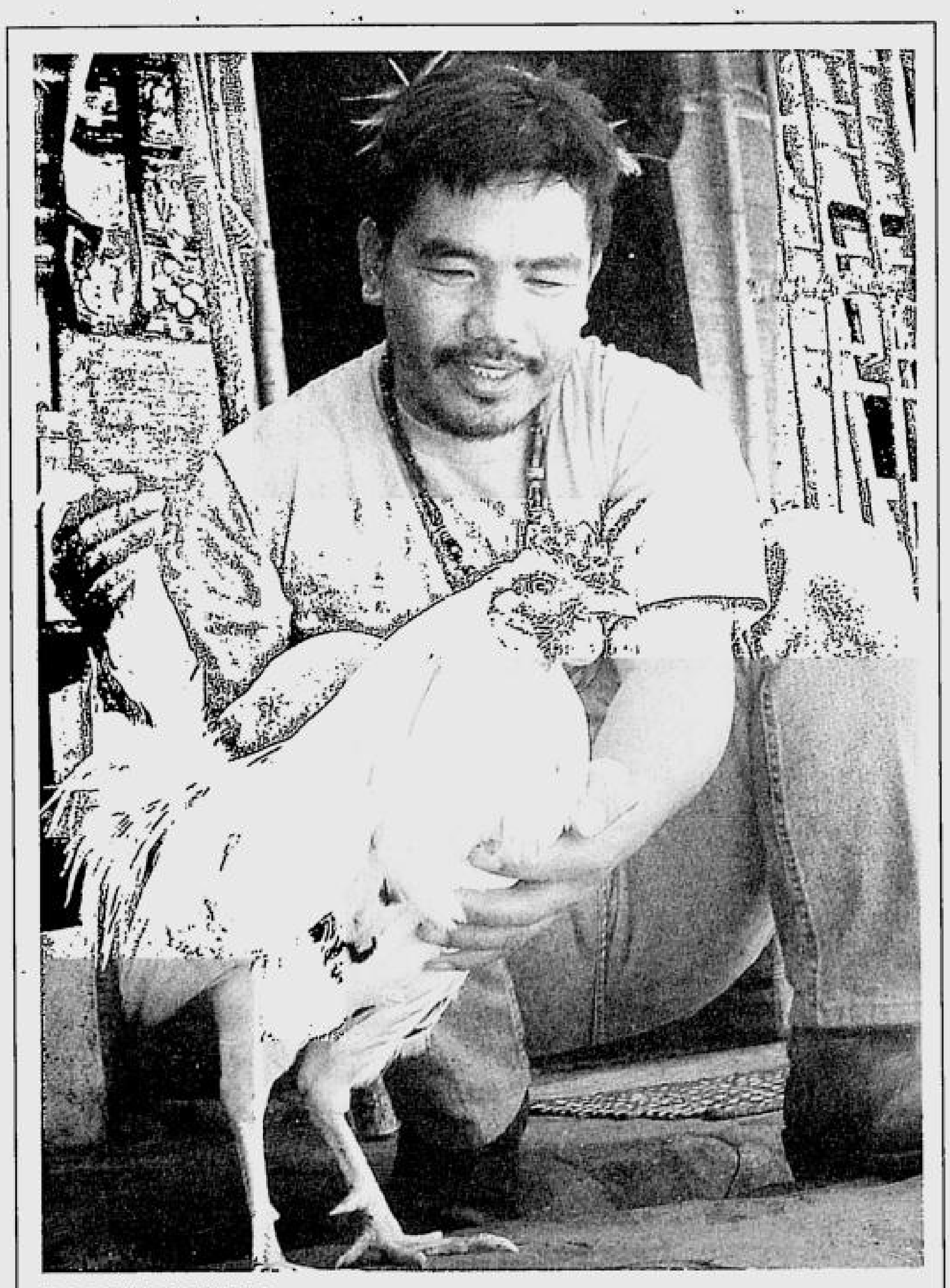
Through the INQUIRER, Steinl asked a meeting with Davao Oriental police director Senior Supt. Catalino Cuy.

"I really wanted to talk to the top officials of the Philippine National Police in Davao Oriental so I could tell them about my problem," he said.

Davao Oriental Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil pledged to help Steinl.

But the German said one of the suspects is a relative of the executive's.

"My friends in Cateel have told me that it is useless to seek for assistance from Gov. Palma Gil because one of my robbers, Ronnie Go, is related to Palma Gil," said Steinl. An aide of the governor said she was aware of the German's predicament. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ROOSTER'S YEAR TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Artist Jordan Mangosan shows off a rooster in Tamawan Village in Baguio City to symbolize the coming of the new year which, according to the Chinese horoscope, is the year of the rooster.

String of executions suspected vigilantes' work in Cebu City

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Seven suspected criminals have been killed in Cebu City in less than a week, bolstering suspicion that a team of vigilantes has already been operating here.

The latest victims were two suspected robbers who were shot dead at about 8:30 a.m. yesterday along the corner of Colon and Jakosalem Streets this city.

The two were identified as Jomar David, 19, of Sanciangko Street and Rolando Taberon, of Barangay T. Padilla.

Both were killed on the spot—David was hit in the back of the head and Taberon, once in the head and four times in the back.

Their companion, Jurie Basillote, 26, of Barangay Basak-Pardo, suffered a gunshot wound in the throat and shoulder and was in critical condition at the city-run Cebu City Medical Center.

A witness, who asked for anonymity, said the victims were robbers victimizing public utility jeepneys in the area.

SPO2 Rodrigo Mangubat, investigator of the Pari-an Police Precinct, said a lone gunman, who was wearing a helmet, made the daring attack while David, Taberon, Basillote and another unidentified companion were walking along the sidewalk.

The series of killings started on Dec. 23, two days after Mayor Tomas Osmeña announced the creation of the Hunter Team that would go after robbers and other criminals in the city.

The first fatality was suspected hold-upper Jimmy Duarte who was gunned down at about 12:15 a.m. of Dec. 23 on Arellano Boulevard corner V. Sotto Street in Pier 3, Barangay Tinago, Cebu City.

Two men, who were wearing bonnets, were on board a motorcycle and stopped in front of Duarte who was crossing the street at the time.

One of the men got off the motorcycle and repeatedly shot Duarte. The suspect then casually went back to his companion and left.

Duarte suffered nine gunshot wounds and died at the hospital.

At around 11:30 p.m. on the same day, Noel Arda, an ex-convict, 38, was shot several times by an unidentified assailant in Purok 3, Lower Camputhaw, Cebu City.

Two hours later Allan de los Santos, 30, and Epifanio Ilustrisimo, 30, both of Barangay Carreta were shot dead. They were suspected criminals, too.

On Dec. 24, a lone gunman on board a motorcycle shot and killed Hector Montilla, alias Toto Dako, 28, of Pier 5, also in Barangay Carreta.

Lawyer of German in Boracay killings appeals for more time

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The new lawyer of a German national charged with the killing of three foreigners and a Filipino on Boracay Island has asked for more time from the Aklan provincial prosecutor's office to present evidence for his client.

Lawyer Jaime Ma. Flores II said he would need to study the records of the case and submit additional evidence for Uwe Friesl after the former defense lawyer, Edgar Calizo Sr., was gunned down in Aklan on Nov. 20.

The case is now undergoing preliminary investigation before the Aklan provincial prosecutors office. Friesl, through lawyer Calizo, had submitted a counter-affidavit denying any involvement in the Boracay murders.

Flores said they still have to get testimony from witnesses who are vital in refuting the evidence of the police against Friesl.

The pieces of evidence will be submitted by the end of the month yet because some of the witnesses are still out of the country and it will take time for them to execute affidavits and have the documents notarized, said Flores.

Friesl is facing a complaint of robbery with multiple homicide in the killing of his fellow German Anton Forstenhausler and three others on May 1. Also named respondents were Filipino Chito Catalogo and three still unidentified suspects.

The justice department has issued a hold departure order against Friesl.

The bodies of Forstenhausler, Swiss-born vineyard owner Manfred Schoeni, Hong Kong-based architect John James Cowperthwaite and Forstenhausler's Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento were found on May 3 at Forstenhausler's three-story mansion called Dolce Vita, which sits on top of Mt. Luho at Sitio Bulabog, Barangay Balabag.

The victims' bodies were found in separate rooms in the mansion with multiple stab wounds. Investigators said robbery was the motive of the killings.

Among the pieces of evidence against Friesl was a set of footprint specimens taken near the lavatory of the second floor of the mansion where the bodies of three victims where found. The footprints allegedly matched those of Friesl.

Friesl, a close friend of Forstenhausler, had helped police identify the victims after the discovery of the bodies. He said he was out drinking with friends during the time the crime was believed to have happened.

He also denied a statement of a police witness who said that he saw Forstenhausler scolding Friesl on April 30, a day before the crime was believed to have happened.

NPA rebs vow bigger, more attacks in '05

LUCENA CITY—Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the New People's Army would launch "bigger and more frequent armed tactical offensives in 2005."

Rosal, in his message to one of the celebrations on the CPP 36th founding anniversary, said "the Arroyo regime has become severely isolated because of its extreme puppetry to US imperialism and its oppression of the Filipino toiling masses."

He said the future NPA attacks aim to "punish" the Arroyo administration for transgressions against the rebels.

"These offensive will also help inspire the Filipino people to undertake mass actions to protest the antipeople, pro-imperialist and fascist measures that deepen their poverty and worsen their oppression," Rosal added.

Rosal also said that the CPP expects a broad range of forces to unite next year to demand the ouster of Arroyo. "The broad masses look forward to relegating Arroyo to the dustbin of history." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Chavit confirms raid, but not illegal deals

BAGUIO CITY—Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson confirmed on Monday the police raid on his construction firm compound, where a cigarette factory also operates, in Bantay town but denied that fake cigarettes were seized.

In a radio interview, Singson said no fake cigarette was recovered from the compound of Satrap Construction Corp. owned by his son.

The raid on the compound at Ora Weste in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, was conducted two weeks ago by members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group from Camp Crame.

Singson told the Vigan City-based dzBD's Bombo Hanay Big Time that the existence of the cigarette factory was long known to residents in the area. "There was no secret about it," he said in Ilocano.

He said the factory was rented by a certain Mr. Lim. He, however, denied that the factory was producing fake cigarettes.

Singson said these allegations were concocted by his political rivals.

Text accusations

Text messages circulating in the province said the factory was manufacturing shabu as well.

Singson said that he would resign if these allegations were proven right.

He denied that the raid was the reason he went ballistic last week and denounced the government for allowing former President Joseph Estrada to leave the country for medical treatment in Hong Kong.

Satrap is reportedly owned by Singson's son, Board Member Ronald Singson. Satrap refers to a governor of a province of ancient Iran but is also the reverse of "Partas," an Ilocos Sur-based bus company owned by a daughter of Singson. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

SINGSON

Foreign firms revive mining bids in North

BAGUIO CITY—The Supreme Court's decision to uphold 100 percent foreign ownership of major mining operations here has big multinational mining companies knocking anew on Cordillera's doors.

Neoman de la Cruz, Cordillera regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), said the Australia-based Newcrest and US-based Newmont have revived their regional headquarters here.

He said other foreign companies have also revived their joint venture partnerships with local major mining companies.

"These major corporations have reestablished their regional bases here in the city. In the past, they were only on a wait-and-see attitude," he said.

Most extensive

MGB records showed that Newcrest Exploration Philippines Inc. has Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) in Eastern Abra covering 33,685 hectares but this has been withdrawn since May 2000.

Another FTAA by Newcrest is in Abra and Kalinga and this has been assigned to Makilala and Malibato Mining Corp. since June 2000.

Newmont has the most extensive FTAA applications. The applications of Newmont Philippines Block VIII cover 77,549 ha in Benguet, Abra, Mt. Province and Ilocos Sur.

Newmont Philippines First Resources also has an FTAA in more than 37,000 ha in Abra and Mt. Province.

Newmont Fourth Resources, however, has withdrawn its application in Benguet and Ilocos Sur while Newmont Philippines Sixth Resources has withdrawn its FTAA applications in Abra and Apayao.

The applications of Newmont Philippines Block VIII cover 100,000 ha in Kalinga, Apayao and Ilocos Norte and those of Block X cover more than 73,000 ha in Abra. But these have been withdrawn since September 1996.

Newmont Philippines Inc. has exploration permit applications (EPA) covering 15,880 ha in Abra and Kalinga. Newmont Philippines Second Resources Inc. has EPA covering 16,200 ha in Abra but this has been withdrawn.

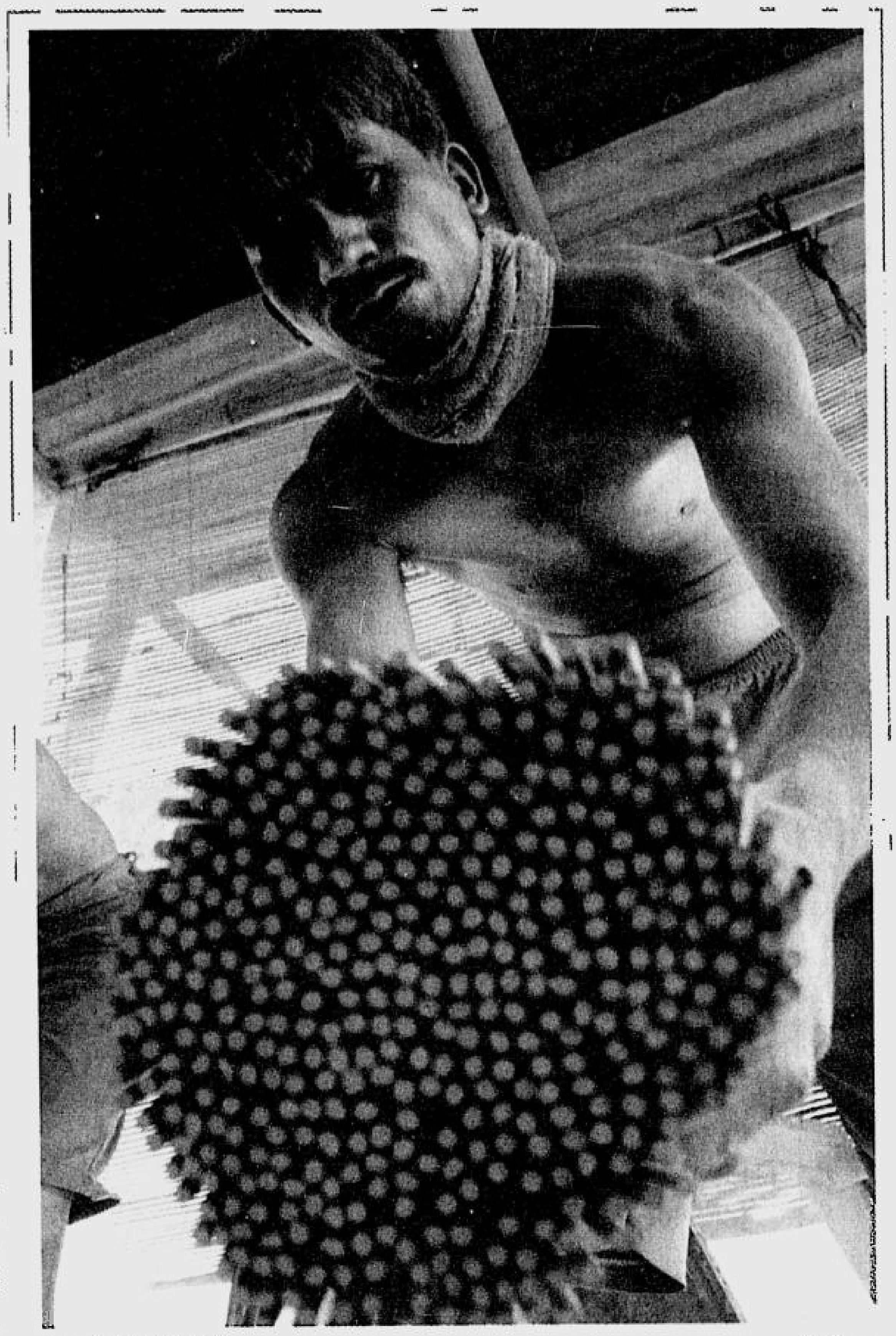
Almost 446,577 ha of the total land area of the Cordillera are covered with mining applications. Of the number, applications for 13,167 ha have been approved while those for 433,409 ha are being processed.

By next year, De la Cruz said they see more foreign mining companies reviving interest in the Cordillera. "Hopefully, we will see them next year perfecting their claims," he said.

Billions

The Arroyo administration's 2004-2010 development plan reported that the mining industry should generate between $4 billion to $6 billion in investments, $5 billion to $7 billion in annual foreign exchange and at least 240,000 jobs in six years.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said mining provides one of the solutions to the government's fiscal crisis. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



BODY PAINTING REM ZAMORA

A worker at a firecracker factory in Bocaue, Bulacan is covered with gunpowder as he and his co-workers rush orders for firecrackers in time for the New Year revelry. Leaders of the local firecracker industry complained of the influx of smuggled firecrackers that is forcing them to bring down prices.

Army says NPAs killed 65 people in S. Luzon

LUCENA CITY—The head of the Armed Forces Civil Relations Group in Southern Luzon based in the Southern Luzon Command headquarters in Camp Nakar here belittled the 36th anniversary celebration of the Communist Party of the Philippines yesterday, saying it had nothing to celebrate.

"What are they celebrating when they are very much antipeople? What feat of achievements have they done in committing senseless violence on the very people they are supposed to serve?" Major Jose Broso, commander of the 2nd AFP-CRG, said here.

Broso, also the Solcom spokesperson, reported that from January until Dec. 25 this year, the New People's Army in Southern Luzon killed at least 65 persons and committed a total of 147 acts of violence.

The military official said that during the period, the NPA also committed 11 cases of kidnapping and abduction; 27 incidents of harassment; nine cases of ambuscade; seven raids against military and police detachments; seven cases of illegal confiscation of weapons; five ransacking incidents; four hacking incidents; four apprehensions; three sabotage activities; three arson incidents, and two robbery-holdups.

"These communist terrorists have nothing to crow about on their latest anniversary due to their continuous acts of violence against the people," Broso said.

The CPP celebrated its 36th founding anniversary on Sunday.

Broso said that last year, the CPP-NPA was responsible for 11 murders in the Southern Tagalog region and 94 killings in the Bicol region, "mostly farmers and fisherfolk in the countryside."

"The helpless victims were either killed for their failure to pay the revolutionary tax or they were summarily executed on mere suspicion that they were cooperating with the government in the campaign against terroristic activities," he said.

Broso said: "What the CPP-NPA must do instead of bragging about empty achievements in their celebration of terroristic activities is to donate the bigger portion of their revolutionary tax to the hapless calamity victims in northern Quezon to at least appease the wrath of the people that they have victimized." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Australia joins East Asia group of economies, says GMA aide

DAVAO CITY—Australia has finally joined the East Asean Growth Area (Eaga), a growth polygon composed of the economies of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, Jesus Dureza of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco) here said.

Dureza said Australia's membership will not only improve the prospects for trade and tourism within the region but may also pave the way for the setting of an Austral-Asia trade route through a proposed railway system that will link different points of Australia with those of the four Eaga countries.

The proposed railway system will link Northern and Southern Australia through the Eaga and a nautical super highway linking Australia with the country's "strong republic nautical highway," the government's project to link the whole country through a network of roll-on, roll-off ports.

Senior officials of the four Eaga countries approved Australia's membership during the 12th BIMP-Eaga senior officials meeting in Balikpapan, Indonesia, last month, Dureza said.

It ended up Australia's observer status since the setting up of the Eaga in 1994.

Dureza said he expects the tourism, agro-industries, transportation, human resource development, mineral resources, construction materials and information communication technology sectors to grow with the new set-up.

For years, Australia has been one of the biggest exporters of cattle to General Santos and lately, business groups have been studying other products for export from Mindanao.

In the statement, Quentin Killan, assistant of the NT International Business Industry and Resource Development, said the proposed Northern Territory one-stop shop for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will benefit not only the SMEs in Australia but also those of the Eaga, through increased market prospects and business tie-ups. *Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

AFP says NPA plan to use Iraq rebs' weapons 'psy-war'

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The military yesterday dismissed as part of the "psychological operations" of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) its announcement to use weapons similar to those of Iraqi insurgents in seizing power through armed struggle.

Col. Jogy Leo Fojas, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, yesterday said this could be designed by the CPP-NPA to boost the morale of its followers and sympathizers.

"It may create alarm and fear among civilians, but not for us," Fojas said.

He pointed out that the NPA in Negros Occidental suffered a setback in their bid to equip their fighters with high-powered firearms after losing an M-60 light machine gun and two M-16 assault rifles to the 11th Infantry Battalion in a recent encounter in Isabela town.

In a statement issued on Saturday, a day before its 36th anniversary, the CPP claimed its forces were increasing and were getting organized.

The statement said its armed wing, the NPA, was "trying to develop the ability to make and use the weapons that the Iraqi resistance is now using."

These would include rocket propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, mortars and "other close-range weapons."

The statement also reiterated its intent to seize power and called on its followers to exploit popular discontent to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The CPP-NPA declared a 10-day unilateral ceasefire, starting on Dec. 23, a week after government suspended its military operations against the communist rebels from Dec. 16 to Jan. 5.

The ceasefire was marred by an encounter between about 50 guerrillas and soldiers of the 11th IB Charlie Company on Dec. 20 in Barangay Camang-Camang, Isabela town.

An Army soldier and two rebels were killed during the encounter. Six soldiers were also wounded during the exchange of gunfire that lasted for two hours.

Lt. Col. Rey Guerrero, 61st Infantry Battalion commanding officer, said after the encounter, there were sightings of armed rebels, although in small groups, in southern Negros Occidental.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, police director for Western Visayas, has ordered police commanders in the region to intensify the conduct of checkpoints.

Aliño also said suspension of military operations does not cover law enforcement operations and other police actions aimed at protecting the people and the community.

Belgian couple loses suit vs Baguio Country Club

BAGUIO CITY—A La Union town judge awarded more than P6 million to the Baguio Country Club and its officers after he dismissed a damage suit filed by a Belgian couple.

Judge Clifton Ganay of the regional trial court in Agoo, La Union, found that BCC reasonably and lawfully acted in ejecting Amelia Forthomme out of its premises in 2001 because it had previous bookings for that year's Fil-Am golf tournament.

Amelia and her husband, Belgian businessman Denis Forthomme, filed two separate damage suits worth P14 million against BCC for ejecting her and for auctioning off their share because of her unpaid accounts.

Ganay ordered the Forthommes to pay P300,000 in legal and incidental fees and P500,000 each to the seven BCC board directors.

He also ordered the couple to pay P3 million as exemplary damage and the cost of the suit.

Ganay said the high price was meant to serve as an example to those who file suits out of grudge.

"The amended complaint is a reckless suit. This court has to give example by imposing heavy exemplary damages so that no one will dare to file a suit of spite," Ganay said.

Court records showed Amelia Forthomme extended thrice her stay in BCC and was supposed to check out on Nov. 29, 2001. Instead, she made BCC's Room 312 "virtually a fortress," Ganay said.

Because of this, Denis Forthomme was suspended from BCC for the gross misconduct of his wife and due to unpaid accounts totaling P312,041, excluding interests and penalties.

Ganay denied reports that Amelia Forthomme was mentally insane and said she was mentally superior.

"The tragic feature of this suit ... is that it was Amelia Reyes Forthomme alone who brought her husband to this legal imbroglio," the judge said.

He said the BCC was "reasonably correct and legally justified" in denying Denis Forthomme's reinstatement to the BCC. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

PNP waxes poetic on reforms, credibility

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The perfunctory New Year's resolution was simple, and poetic as well for the Philippine National Police this time around.

Stated bluntly, it is this: "To be able to serve our people well and to get the credibility that has evaded us for so long a time by the competence and integrity in the performance of our job."

But Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, who is in charge of PNP administration, also went poetic to renew fire in some 500 policemen gathered here Monday.

"Don't treat your life as a candle flickering in the dark. Life is short truly. You must treat it in the way you are carrying a torch. Make it bright as possible," Gil intoned, complete with encouraging voice.

The occasion was the assumption of the Central Luzon command by Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, former Cordillera regional police chief.

Albano replaced Director General Enrique Galang who retired on Dec. 24.

Gil said regaining the credibility of the PNP has been the focus of the reforms introduced by Director General Edgar Aglipay, PNP chief.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement on Aug. 23 that the PNP had "no credibility" was still fresh in his mind.

He said he agreed with that view, adding that "every so often, the PNP faces a crisis of confidence."

This was because of the involvement of policemen in criminal offenses and incompetence among the ranks.

Gil said law enforcement remains a frontline service and the "No. 1 demand" of the people.

"We need moral ascendancy in the face of a very critical public," he said. "It is not right for an organization to go down to the public indictment of a few but this is a reality we have to face."

But the PNP has "not reneged" on its job, he said, adding that the "leadership has always been thinking of ways on how to transform the organization into an institution that is respected."

The overriding concerns of the PNP, he said, are summed up in three words: Respected, esteemed, recognized. The same words reflect the vision of the PNP, he said.

But unlike authoritative intervention and ensuring the rule of law, Gil said crime prevention entailed the involvement of communities.

Then speaking in a more serious tone, he said: "Don't forget the vision. Do not drag it down by your incompetence. Do not slow it down with your involvement in criminal offenses. You must contribute to its attainment. Fly like an eagle by rising high above it."

After urging policemen and policewomen to also set personal visions for themselves in terms of physical, mental, social and spiritual renewal in 2005, Gil asked them to be better spouses and parents.

"Do your roles well so that every time you look back, you will always see that the landscape of your vision of your life is smooth and balance, not strewn with broken promises and tattered dreams that never came to be, like simple things that never came or songs that were never sang."

Fireworks by Bay, aerials light up skies

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Tarra V. Quismundo

METRO MANILA residents will have something special to look forward to as they welcome the New Year, from sophisticated fireworks illuminating the Makati skyline to sky shows lighting up Manila Bay.

People from as far as Malabon in northern Metro Manila, San Pedro in Laguna, and Antipolo City will be able to see a special 15-minute fireworks show prepared by an international team of experts at the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Ayala Avenue on Dec. 31.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said the design team of the Makati fireworks display is made up of designers from Italy, Australia, Japan and the Philippines who had competed individually in various fireworks competitions in Europe, Asia and the United States.

"This will be the first time these internationally acclaimed fireworks technicians will collaborate in the Philippines for a show especially made for the Makati New Year's Eve countdown," Binay said in a statement.

The multicolored fireworks, to be presented locally for the first time, will feature aerials measuring 1,200 feet, "illuminating the famous Makati skyline of tall corporate buildings," Binay added.

In Manila, the skies over its famous bay would be the spectacle to await on the last day of the year, as City Hall had invited those living in and out of the city to a cheap yet unusual way of celebrating the coming of 2005.

While encouraging people to catch the famed Manila Bay sunset by the Roxas Boulevard strip on Dec. 31, Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza invited Manilans and those from other cities and towns to see the fireworks display City Hall is currently preparing with broadcast network GMA 7.

"People can come as early as 3 p.m. They can watch the beautiful sunset, have dinner later at the Baywalk, and enjoy the special performances that we have lined up with GMA 7," said Atienza.

"This would be a most enjoyable and, at the same time, affordable way to welcome the New Year," the mayor continued.

From 3 p.m. on Dec. 31 until dawn on January, the stretch of Roxas Boulevard, from P. Burgos Street to Pablo Ocampo Street (formerly Vito Cruz), would be closed to vehicles to give way to the event.

Fun-loving Metro Manilans are expected to join city officials in welcoming the New Year on the bayside road, lined by the Roxas Boulevard Baywalk.

A stage would also be set up on Rajah Sulayman Park in Malate, right across the bay area promenade, for a variety show that would entertain the audience before the midnight sky show.

At the stroke of midnight, fireworks safely lit and launched by experts from barges on Manila Bay would light up the bay area for at least 30 minutes, a fitting finale to the New Year countdown to be lead by Atienza and GMA Network Inc. president, chairman and chief executive officer Felipe Gozon.

"The fireworks display is free and open to the public. We want Filipinos to welcome the New Year in the most joyous and enjoyable manner possible and we expect a huge turnout for this event," said Atienza.

The pyrotechnics display, which City Hall said would rival what it had staged last year, would be aired over television channel GMA 7.

"We are inviting everyone to join us at the Roxas Boulevard Baywalk to usher in the New Year with this super fireworks display.

"It would definitely be a sight to behold," said Atienza.

The mayor began this New Year tradition for the city when he first assumed the post in 1998.

Binay, on the other hand, emphasized that the fireworks design and the firing synchronization of their trend-setting show would be controlled by a computer.

"There will be no manual firing for safety purposes," he said.

Binay added, "In itself, the aerial fireworks will be a sight to see, but there will be fireworks at the ground level and a special laser light show and musical numbers.

"So the best place to be is at the event's venue," Binay added.

Man falls to death in well

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A 34-YEAR-OLD laborer, who just wanted to earn some money for New Year's Eve, accidentally fell to his death down a 40-meter deep well in Caloocan City yesterday.

Lecerio Mejia, 34, was hired to clean the well in front of the house of Fe Manog in Barangay Bagong Silang about 9 a.m. yesterday, PO2 Julian Chavez told the INQUIRER.

Manog told Mejia to clean the well after the New Year celebrations, but the victim insisted on doing the job yesterday, Chavez added. The well had not been in use for three months, Manog told police.

When Manog decided to check on Mejia later, she found out that he had fallen inside the well. Neighbors rushed to get him out, but Mejia was already dead.

ERIK ARAZAS

EXTRA CAREFUL
Children tour Rizal Park at the Luneta unmindful of roving Army soldiers tasked to keep peace and order in the area in the light of perceived terrorist threats.

Price watch in Navotas markets

THE NAVOTAS municipal government continues to monitor prices of basic commodities during the Christmas season to protect consumers from unscrupulous businessmen.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco ordered the town's Task Force Palengke to do the monitoring in the light of reports reaching his office that prices of consumer items, especially meat, fish, vegetables and other foods, had gone up.

Tiangco directed market masters and inspectors to see to it that public and private markets, commercial areas as well as street markets observe prescribed price ceilings, and that vendors use correct weighing scales.

"There are enough laws to protect consumers from unscrupulous traders," the mayor said.

No revelry for trigger-happy cops on New Year's Eve

FIRE and be fired.

Less than three days to go before the New Year, Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay warned the 115,000-strong police force against indiscriminately firing their guns as part of the celebrations to usher in the coming year.

Those caught pulling the trigger with no legitimate reason could face the maximum penalty of dismissal, according to Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson.

"All violators will be charged criminally and administratively," he told reporters yesterday.

This early, Bataoil said policemen had been deployed to patrol the streets with local officials. Their task: Look for and arrest anyone, lawmen in particular, who would indiscriminately fire their guns.

He said the PNP would also use public address systems to discourage people from firing their guns for no reason.

"We will be very strict against indiscriminate firing because it has killed and wounded so many people in the past few years," Bataoil added.

To prevent similar incidents, policemen's service firearms would be taped around the muzzle. The procedure is meant to determine who among them would pull the trigger until the tape is removed on Jan. 1.

Exceptions are officers who would have to use their guns during legitimate operations.

Yesterday, members of the Western Police District joined their colleagues nationwide in having the muzzles of their firearms covered with masking tape.

The tapes were signed by inspecting officers so that policemen would not be able to replace it with another strip.

"We are trying to have zero incidents of indiscriminate firing this year so that we could peacefully welcome the coming of the new year," said WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, who led the taping of the muzzles.

Bulaong also said that the early taping of the firearms was meant to tell the public that the WPD is taking measures to discipline its members and keep out of harm the people they are supposed to protect.

But some police officers, who refused to be named, doubted whether taping the muzzles of policemen's guns would be enough.

Good examples

They explained that proper information dissemination and strict inspection would help, adding that what was more important was the commitment of the police to set good examples.

Police officials, in turn, sought the help of citizens in the effort to reduce accidents.

"This is when we will need the help of the community," Northern Police District director Noe Wong said, adding that residents should remain vigilant and immediately report violators. *Christian V. Esguerra, Leila B. Salaverria, Tina G. Santos and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

What took Mandaluyong firemen so long?

By Ruth L. Navarra

A YOUNG girl hopefully sifts through the rubble looking for a cherished memento of her former home.

EUGENE ARANETA

AFTER 400 families were displaced in a five-hour Mandaluyong fire on Sunday, the victims are still wondering why it took so long to put out the blaze.

"The victims complained that we arrived late, but what happened was their own calls were delayed because they were too busy safeguarding their properties," explained one Mandaluyong firefighter.

Firemen said that they had a hard time penetrating the center of the fire because of the narrow streets that end up in a maze along Barangay Barangka Drive. Some of them had to climb roofs to be able to put out the fire, they explained.

Police Supt. Ericson Velasquez said that, at one point, their trucks had run out of water and he had to order the firemen to look for other sources in the surrounding areas. The trucks also had a hard time maneuvering their way in and out of the vicinity, he added.

"We even had to smash one fire hydrant in Kaunlaran Street, only to find out that it was not working," said Velasquez.

The fire was believed to have originated from the house of Carlos Samson at 68 Kayumanggi St., Barangay Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City, at around 5:23 p.m., rapidly spreading until it developed into an uncontrollable blaze. It gutted neighboring shanties and razed around 140 homes, according to SFO3 Avelino Caya.

Twenty fire trucks responded to the alarm until the fire was put out at 10:45 p.m. The estimated amount of damage reached P2 million. The exact cause of fire has yet to be determined.

Velasquez added that it did not help that there was rampant illegal tapping of electricity in the area.

The victims were evacuated to the nearby Pedro P. Cruz Elementary School, where they will stay until the area is cleared and they would be allowed to return and rebuild their homes.

Dick Gordon's charity work

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

SEN. RICHARD Gordon, chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, played Santa Claus to 10,000 families in the Quezon towns Real, Infanta and General Nakar that were devastated by the recent typhoons.

He distributed foodstuff like noodles, spaghetti, canned goods, cheese, chocolate drink, coffee and milk so the disaster victims could enjoy the traditional *noche buena*.

Gordon also made the children in those areas enjoy the Christmas spirit when he gave them cakes, cookies, candies, new shirts, slippers and toys.

At first glance, people who see Gordon as a traditional politician would think that he was politicking.

Politicians want their charity work known so the electorate would reelect them or install them in higher office.

They're wrong. In the first place, Dick Gordon just won the Senate seat for the first time in the last election.

The next election is still years away.

Secondly, the Red Cross wouldn't allow anybody to use the organization for self-aggrandizement.

I know Dick Gordon very well. He helps other people because he loves to.

His charity is not for show.

In the big earthquake of July 1990, a college building in Cabanatuan collapsed and many of its students were trapped under the ruins.

Gordon, then mayor of Olongapo City, was the first local official to respond to a call for help from the Cabanatuan City government.

He sent his own men to lead rescue efforts at the collapsed building.

Dick Gordon also used his influence with the US Naval authorities at Subic Base to help in the rescue efforts.

US Navy helicopters were used in ferrying equipment to the disaster site and in carrying the injured to the base hospital.

In 1993, the pagoda used in the fluvial parade in Bocaue, Bulacan collapsed and drowned more than 200 persons.

In the first few hours after the disaster, Gordon's men were there retrieving bodies from the murky river.

The men were scuba divers from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) led by Jim Robertson, Gordon's first cousin. They were the first rescue units at the scene.

During the campaign sortie to Nueva Ecija, Dick Gordon came upon a burning public market in one of the towns.

He came down from his vehicle and personally led in the firefighting effort.

In the aftermath of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, relief goods poured into Olongapo City, where Gordon was still mayor.

A civic group from Manila handed over a substantial amount of relief goods for the Pinatubo victims in Olongapo.

But its members brought along a photographer so their efforts would be published in the Manila newspapers.

When Dick Gordon learned what the civic group's real intention was—for their charity work to be publicized—he refused to accept the donation.

He told them charity work should never be known.

How did I learn about Dick Gordon's unpublished charity work?

Not from him, naturally, but rom some of his subordinates who were my hunting buddies before. And from people who benefited from his charity work.

Dick Gordon may have his shortcomings, like most human beings, but his charity work is beyond question.

Dick Gordon is synonymous with charity.

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ *Assistant Editor* Cenon B. Bibe

EZ2 9 29

SUERTRES 1 5 4 (In exact order)

FOUR DIGIT 4 1 0 0

MEGALOTTO 6/45 15 16 18 24 28 33

SWEEPSTAKES 2 9 0 0 0 4 C

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Buses hit house; 1 dead

By Leila B. Salaverria

A NINE-YEAR-OLD boy was killed and 30 others were injured when two buses collided and slammed into a house in Sta. Cruz, Manila, yesterday.

The lone fatality was identified as Joesmith Basi who died while undergoing treatment at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Initial reports showed that a Marikina Transit Bus and a minibus bound for Sapang Palay in Bulacan were traveling from opposite directions when they collided at around 1 p.m. on the corner of Felix Huertas and San Lazaro Streets.

The collision also caused the buses to hit a house that doubled as an eatery along Felix Huertas Street.

The injured passengers were rushed to the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Officer of the day Dr. Marie Fopalan told the INQUIRER that the other passengers were conscious and suffered only minor injuries.

Police were able to arrest driver Rogelio Lascuna and conductor Ramil Abellas of the Marikina Transit Bus, along with Eliado Bustillo, conductor of the other vehicle.

But the driver of the minibus, who was not readily identified, was able to escape, police added.

The three were brought to the Sta. Cruz police station and were expected to be turned over to the Western Police District Traffic Enforcement Office.

HOLIDAY TREAT ERIK ARAZAS

Never out of fashion despite the advent of modern carnival rides, many children still prefer to board carousels like this one at the Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, during the Christmas season.

Year-end
Dec. 26-30
Sale
Save up to 50%
Plus! a chance to win one of the 24 CHEVROLET OPTRA
METRO G·A·I·S·A·N·O
COLON · MANDAUE · AYALA · LEGAZPI · LUCENA · MARKET!MARKET!
Per DTI Region VII Permit No. 143, series of 2004

MMDA bans waiting sheds on curbs

By Margaux C. Ortiz

KEEP sheds off the curb.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday issued this warning to barangay officials who were told to refrain from installing waiting sheds on street curbs.

"Apart from causing traffic, this practice is also dangerous," Fernando stressed in a phone interview.

The MMDA chair said he had noticed that barangay officials had been indiscriminately building sheds on street curbs all over the metropolis.

Fernando said these structures should be put up at least 20 meters away from the curb.

"This way, people would avoid waiting for and riding in public utility vehicles on this part of the road," he added.

Fernando also stressed that vehicles loading and unloading passengers at the curb could cause traffic jams.

The MMDA chief warned offenders that the agency would remove the illegal structures if they refuse to heed the warning.

No names, please

He also reminded barangay officials to remove signboards and structures bearing their names on the sidewalks.

"Some even put up posts showing the list of officials' names on street corners," Fernando said.

He added, "This is also dangerous because it could slow down traffic and cause accidents."

Fernando said they would not hesitate to remove the structures as part of the MMDA's sidewalk clearing operations all over Metro Manila.

Foul play ruled out in judge's death

By Tina G. Santos

THE CENTRAL Police District Office yesterday ruled out foul play in the death of Judge Alicia Co, 52, who was found lifeless inside the bedroom of her Quezon City home last Sunday.

Supt. Procopio Lipana, chief of the CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit, said that based on their investigation, Co, of Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 161, could have committed suicide because of depression.

"The victim apparently got depressed after her medical records showed that she had a lingering illness and was in danger of losing her sight," Lipana said.

Co, of Champaca Street, Barangay Roxas District, was found with a bullet wound in her right temple by her sister, Yolanda Jimenez, inside her bedroom around 2 p.m.

Found beside the judge's body was a .38-cal. pistol.

Eye operation

Jimenez earlier said that Co had been complaining about her eyes, which had been operated on three months ago.

The condition of her eyes reportedly continued to bother her long after the operation was over.

Jimenez told police that Co had been depressed over the past few days, prompting her to visit her sister.

Jimenez went straight to Co's room where she found her lifeless body on the bed.

Co's three maids, her house companions, told police they saw the judge leave her room 10 minutes before her body was discovered.

The three, however, claimed they never heard the sound of gunfire.

BASKETBALL: NBA-Nets vs Pistons; 8:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Vince Carter leads New Jersey against defending champion Detroit.
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Eagles vs Rams; 10 a.m. (r-8:30 p.m.); ESPN—NFC heavyweight Philadelphia tries to conquer St. Louis.
FOOTBALL: EPL; tomorrow at 3:55 a.m.; ESPN and STAR Sports—Aston Villa tries to upset Manchester United.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

SPORTS
E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Don't miss your favorite TV shows!
Check out today's Inquirer TV Guide in the Entertainment section
Happy Viewing!

RP LADIES OPEN

Bondad ready for title defense

By Musong R. Castillo

FRANCES Bondad, an Australian-American who is very Filipino at heart, planes in Thursday to defend the Philippine Ladies Open golf crown and with the intent of formally securing Filipino citizenship for the Manila Southeast Asian Games next year.

Born of Filipino parents but holding Australian and American passports, the 17-year-old arrives alone via a Philippine Airlines flight at 5 p.m. before her mother, Juliet, follows on Jan. 2, 2005.

Frances missed the chance to represent the country in the World Amateurs last October, but her mother coming over is a sign that all can be ironed out for a smooth representation of the Philippines in the biennial SEAG.

Bondad will actually try to defend another crown, the Samsung International, while here. It is set Jan. 6, 2005, at Wack Wack.

She then takes on the best amateurs from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines in the RP Ladies on Jan. 12-14, 2005, at the Manila Golf Club.

Bondad will play in both tournaments as an Australian, but guardian and aunt Dinah Briones has guaranteed that she will be able to convince Juliet to appear before the Bureau of Immigration and testify as to her roots.

The World Amateur stint went down the drain when Juliet and husband Noel failed to appear before BI secretary Al Fernandez. It was the only remaining requirement the Bondads had to satisfy in order for a passport for Frances to be released.

"I'm sure that Juliet would reconsider," Briones said. "We will exhaust all means to be able to secure a Philippine passport for Frances. She's dying to represent her country."

Briones had also asked golf patron Antonio Arevalo for help in Bondad's training expenses leading to the RP Ladies. Arevalo is now trying to book practice rounds at the exclusive Manila Golf Club.

Bondad is asking Arevalo to be able to facilitate at least five practice rounds at Manila Golf to get used to the conditions.

She has little idea of the credentials of the other foreign challengers, but expressed optimism for a successful title defense.

"I didn't play that great (when I won last year)," Bondad said. "I haven't improved out of sight from last year, but I'm playing more consistently."

"My chances are as equal as any other player in the field. To me, the course is my toughest competitor."

Leading the roster of homegrown bets in the Open are Jayvee Agojo, Carmelette Villaroman and Lora Roberto.

The 2005 Open field should easily top a hundred according to WGAP president Nancy Ortiga as ladies chapters of clubs from all over the country are set to send their best players to the annual event.

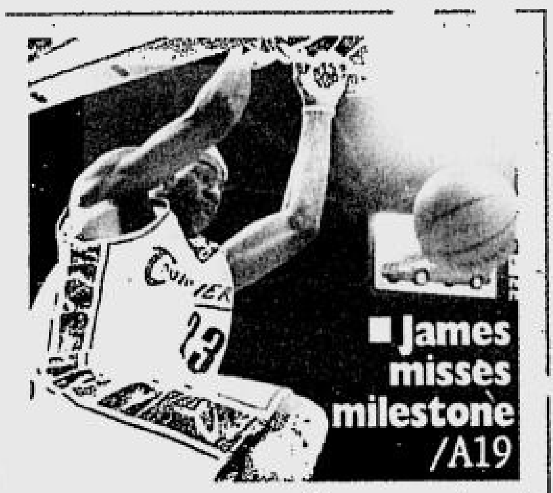
The WGAP has set Thursday, Dec. 30, as the deadline for submission of entries. Interested parties may call 0917-5295324 for details or e-mail wgap71@hotmail.com. Entry forms are available at Manila Golf Club and may be faxed to 5319190.

Ortiga added that the 2005 cast will be a very young roster with a horde of local junior standouts led by promising long-hitter Regan de Guzman signing up.

BONDAD: I'm playing more consistently.
PDI PHOTO

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Shell making heads turn with Austria at the helm /A18



- James misses milestone /A19

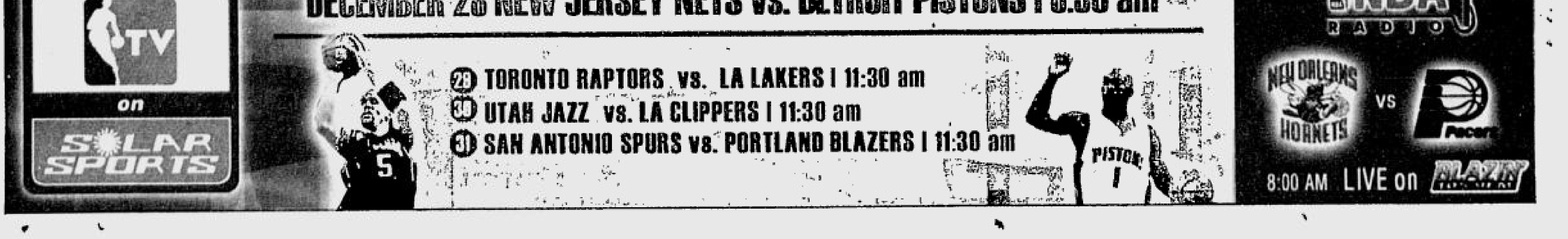
THE ANNIVERSARY BLOWOUT
ANG HINDI TUMAWAG, WALANG
30% OFF!

SAMPLE COMPUTATION

BRAND	MARKET VALUE	REGULAR PRICE	30% OFF	BLOWOUT PRICE
2001 Honda Civic LXi M/T	470,000.00	16,363.00	**4,909.00**	11,454.00
2002 Honda Civic VTi M/T	560,000.00	19,233.00	**5,770.00**	13,463.00
2002 Honda CRV A/T	760,000.00	18,409.00	**5,523.00**	12,886.00
2003 Toyota Corolla GLi M/T	545,000.00	18,754.00	**5,626.00**	13,128.00
2004 Toyota Corolla Altis J M/T	655,000.00	22,262.00	**6,679.00**	15,583.00
2004 Toyota Revo SR M/T	830,000.00	19,954.00	**5,986.20**	13,968.00
2002 Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi A/T	490,000.00	17,001.00	**5,100.00**	11,901.00
2003 Mitsubishi Adventure Sport	645,000.00	15,869.68	**4,760.90**	-11,108.77
2003 Mitsubishi Pajero A/T	1,200,000.00	28,073.00	**8,422.00**	19,651.00
1999 Nissan Exalta M/T	360,000.00	12,855.00	**3,857.00**	8,999.00
1999 Nissan Frontier 4x4 A/T	535,000.00	13,319.00	**3,996.00**	9,323.00
2000 Nissan Patrol 3.0 4x4 A/T	1,200,000.00	28,073.00	**8,422.00**	19,651.00
2003 Isuzu Trooper DSL 3.2	995,000.00	23,597.00	**7,079.00**	16,518.00

direct link
CAR INSURANCE
Simpleng Kausap!
MAKATI
88-725-88
CEBU
234-0808
Valid for non-Direct Link and Non-UCPB Gen Policy Holders

TOBY'S
Live Life, Play Sports.
prince
Wilson
PROTEUS
JK EXER
YEAR END SALE
UP TO 50% DISCOUNT
December 26, 2004 to January 02, 2005
RSL
YONEX
EASTPAK
K-SWISS
TRIBU
feelfree
www.tobys.com



NBA TV on SOLAR SPORTS
DECEMBER 28 NEW JERSEY NETS vs. DETROIT PISTONS | 8:30 am
㉘ TORONTO RAPTORS vs. LA LAKERS | 11:30 am
㉚ UTAH JAZZ vs. LA CLIPPERS | 11:30 am
㉛ SAN ANTONIO SPURS vs. PORTLAND BLAZERS | 11:30 am
NBA RADIO
NEW ORLEANS HORNETS VS Pacers
8:00 AM LIVE on BLAZIN

PSA to fete top jockey, benefactor

GOING to the stage to receive the PSA (Philippine Sportswriters Association) Jockey of the Year award is nothing new to Patricio Dilema. He has done it the last three years.

DILEMA

ESGUERRA

And for the fourth straight time, Dilema, 'Patty' to friends, relatives and to the *bayang karerista*, will be feted by the sportswriters as runaway choice for the top jockey award during the PSA Annual Awards Night on Jan. 13 at the Manila Pavilion.

Dilema will not be alone to savor the moment when he gets the plum. His well-known, well-loved boss, horse-owner-businessman Hermie Esguerra, will be there, too, to receive a citation for his vast contributions to the horse racing industry and philantrophic deeds.

Owner of the great Wind Blown and rising stars such as Real Spicy, Lamborghini and Eye Candy, Esguerra put Dilema under his wings not too long ago and the partnership resulted in countless triumphs in big-time races like the juvenile and colts stakes.

The two are in the list of athletes, sports patrons and entities to be honored by the country's oldest media group in a simple, 90-minute program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors, Photokina, Pagcor, San Miguel Beer, the Philippine Sports Commission and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza with NBN-4 as its carrier station.

Dilema's records made it easy for the sportswriters as they chose the jockey of the year awardee. As of Nov. 14, he rode mounts that banked P53,916,351.37 on 228 first, 186 second and 138 third place finishes out of 955 rides in a shining achievement that assured him of a place in the list of all-time greats that includes Jesus Guce and Bobok Domingo.

The others are too far behind to pose a threat.

His closest rival for the award, Jonathan Hernandez, is some P15 million behind in winnings and 55 in winning riders.

Oh, yes, Patty made sure he would be ending the year in grand style. Last week at the Sta. Ana Park, he clinched 14 victories in six days, the most by any rider.

Esguerra will be cited not only for his contributions to the horse racing industry in which he has invested close to P300 million. Unknown to many, the Plaridel, Bulacan, businessman has also donated a large sum of his winnings to charities and athletes in dire need of help.

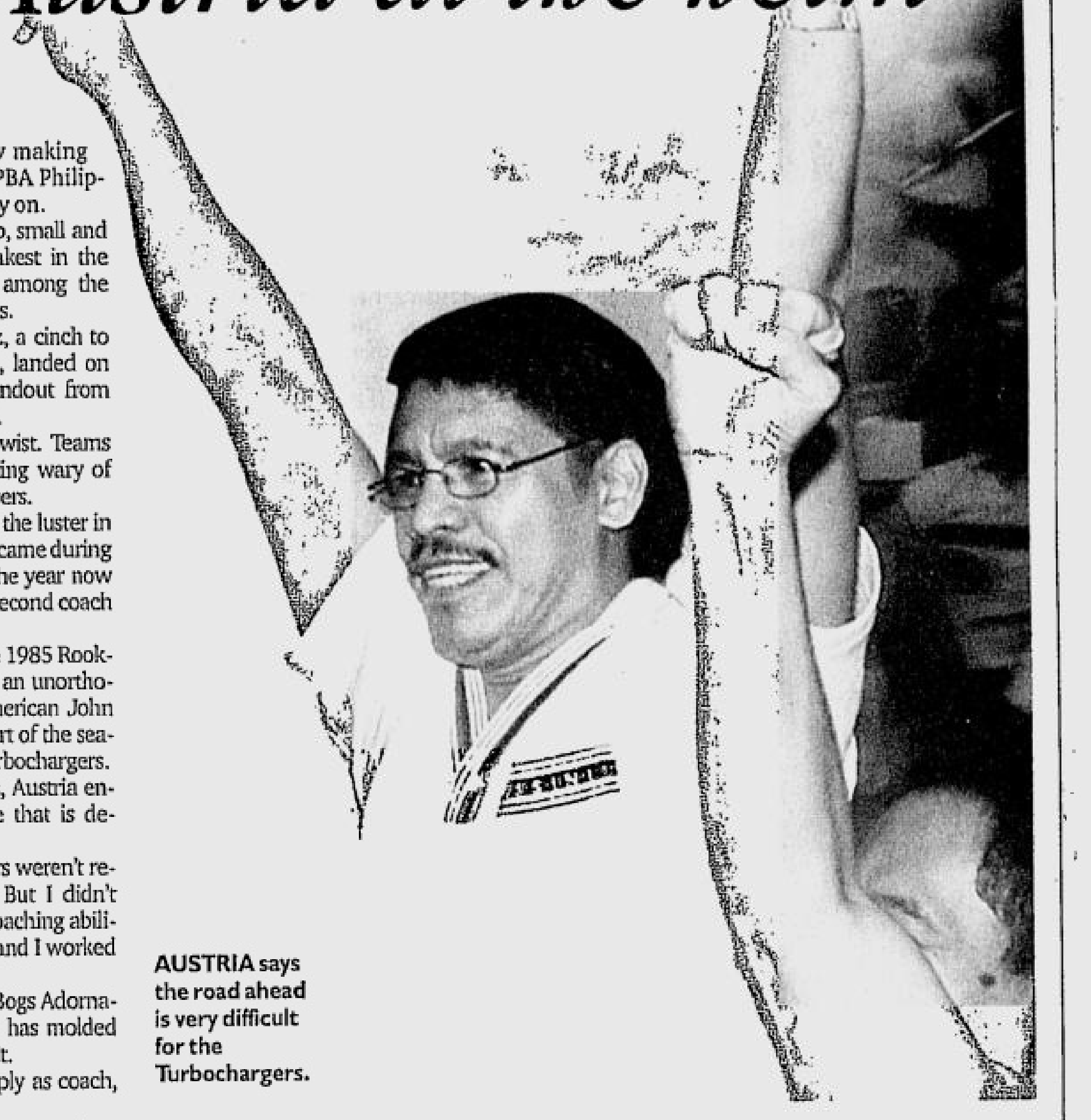
With no horse emerging so dominant the way Wind Blown did last year, the PSA Board made up of sports editors of leading dailies decided not to name a winner in the Horse of the Year race.

Golfer Jennifer Rosales and boxer Manny Pacquiao head the compact roster of awardees as Sportswoman of the Year and Sportsman of the Year, respectively.

Four great athletes of another time—Lydia de Vega and Mona Sulaiman of athletics and Carlos Loyzaga and Lauro Mumar of basketball—will be elevated to the PSA Hall of Fame.

Shell making heads turn with Austria at the helm

By Dennis U. Eroa


AUSTRIA says the road ahead is very difficult for the Turbochargers.

SMALL wonder that Shell is now making heads turn in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup after being ignored early on.

It's easy to see why. Shell's lineup, small and unproven, is undoubtedly the weakest in the field. No big names to sow fear among the hearts of the other competing squads.

Well, top draft pick Rich Alvarez, a cinch to win the Rookie of the Year award, landed on Shell, but the 6-foot-4 former standout from Ateneo can't do it all. He needs help.

But the story is taking a new twist. Teams boasting sky-high payrolls are getting wary of Shell with its growing core of followers.

And it takes a special man to put the luster in a franchise whose last taste of glory came during the 1999 All-Filipino Conference, the year now US-based Perry Ronquillo won his second coach of the year award.

Leo Austria, who was named the 1985 Rookie of the Year as a Shell guard with an unorthodox jumpshot, took over from American John Moran and Jigs Mendoza at the start of the season and the result revved up the Turbochargers.

Known for his old-school values, Austria energizes the team with an attitude that is demanding yet understanding.

"At the start, I felt that my players weren't really trusting me," said Austria. " But I didn't think about it as an affront to my coaching abilities. The game is about teamwork and I worked hard to get their respect."

Backed up by assistant coaches Bogs Adornado and Dayong Mendoza, Austria has molded the Turbochargers into a potent unit.

Players look up to him not simply as coach, but as a confidante.

"He's (Austria) a great motivator. In my three years as his assistant at Welcoat, I saw him got angry only twice," recalled Caloy Garcia, now the Paintmasters' head coach.

While other coaches like to prove a point with irritating body languages and ear-splitting voices, Austria probes the weaknesses of his foe with the zen of a chess player.

During instances that he felt his ward failed to follow instructions, Austria would rather do the talking inside the locker room or one-on-one so as not to demean his ward.

As a result, fans warm up to the Turbochargers' tireless game, bringing to mind memories of the famed Ateneo-La Salle match-ups in the UAAP cage wars.

The Turbochargers, as magnified by Ronald Tubid's 'eat the hoop' mentality, Alvarez's explosions, Billy Mamaril's strong perimeter game, Tony de la Cruz's deadly sniping, Celino Cruz steadying effect, Chris Jackson's stonewall defense and the newfound confidence of Adonis Sta. Maria and Marlon Legaspi, are playing without fear.

The tide of changing opinion regarding Shell's new-found enthusiasm can be summed up in the word of a passionate fan: *Palaban*.

"My upbringing tells me to respect others," said Austria. "I respect my players. They aren't perfect and will commit mistakes. They make the pros, because they are special. The key is to utilize their talents for the benefit of the team."

Austria won four PBL titles as coach of the now-defunct Shark Energy Drink quintet. But he's thinking big now, aiming at bringing the luster back to Shell.

Benjie Paras, the league's sole rookie-MVP in 1989, who now makes a living as a comedian; point laureate Ronnie Magsanoc, now Purefoods assistant coach; Victor Pablo and Mark Telan, now with Talk 'N Text and the irreplaceable Bobby Parks conspired as Shell joined the elite winners' circle in 1990, 1991, 1992, 1998 and 1999.

Since then, it has been downhill for the Turbochargers.

"To coach at this level is a dream. I am thankful to the management for giving me the chance to prove my worth," Austria said.

The 43-year-old former altar boy from Sariaya, Quezon, knows that he's just starting to build the Shell dynasty.

"We're the surprise team this conference, but we aren't the dominant team," said Austria. "The road is long and winding but we're slowly getting there.

"The team is young and it needs time to mature. I'm not promising anything but the next phase is going to be very difficult for us and we're going to give it our best shot."

Shell finished the elims with a 12-6 card in a tie with Talk 'N Text Pals in the Philippine Cup.

Austria doesn't need to say it.

If the Turbochargers could silence the Phone Pals in their playoff for the second automatic slot on Jan. 7, it should set the tone for bringing back the good 'ole days.

SPORTSWATCH

Emperado rules MCC unrated chess

EMMANUEL "Buknoy" Emperado turned back Ryan Dungca in 40 moves of a Sicilian Defense to rule the Metropolitan Chess Club (MCC) unrated active chess tournament last Sunday. Emperado won the tie-break over Jose Aquino and Gabriel Nagallo. They all wound up with 6.0 points and divided the P5,500 purse among themselves. Aquino and Nagallo defeated Elixer Sanchez and Alex Vitualla, respectively. Dungca finished with 5.5 points and shared fourth to sixth places with Victoriano Escora and Ramon Manon-Og. *Marlon Bernardino*

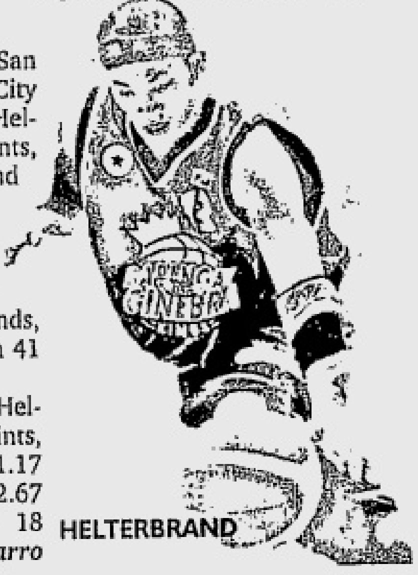
St. Jude, CCP snare table tennis titles

THE ST. Jude College Crusaders and the Central Colleges of the Philippines Lady Bobcats ruled their respective divisions in the 10th Colleges and Universities (Cusa) table tennis tournament at the Trinity College Gym recently. The Crusaders took the men's crown at the expense of the Philippine Maritime Institute Admirals and the Bobcats, who finished second and third, respectively. The Lady Crusaders also placed a strong second behind perennial champion CCP in the distaff side. Technological Institute of the Philippines finished third.

Pasay 3-cock derby tonight

COCKFIGHTING action resumes tonight at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit with another 3-cock derby. To be hosted by veteran cocker Cito Manansala, the one-day event stakes a cash prize of P150,000 for an entry fee of P5,500. The first fight starts at 7 p.m. Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten are the event sponsors. Interested parties may call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750 for inquiries. Meanwhile, the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-cock derby is up next on Jan. 7. On Jan. 12 is the much-awaited "Fastest Kill Challenge," offering a guaranteed prize of P500,000 for a minimal pot money of P2,200. Awaiting the grand champion is a brand-new type jeep, while the second placer gets a Honda motorcycle.

Helterbrand rises for Brgy. Ginebra



HELTERBRAND

WHEN somebody says Barangay Ginebra, Eric Menk and Mark Caguioa always come to mind.

These names have become synonymous with the Gin Kings, leaving the less illustrious stars of the team behind their shadows.

Not anymore. Jayjay Helterbrand is now crafting a name for himself by giving the Gin Kings' offense stability in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup.

Helterbrand capped his heroics for the Gin Kings with a career-high 33 points on Christmas Day to lead Barangay Ginebra to a 108-102 victory over the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals.

That victory installed the Gin Kings on top of the standings with a 13-5 record and gave them an automatic seat in the best-of-five semifinals.

For Helterbrand's efforts, the shifty playmaker was unanimously chosen by the PBA Press Corps as its player of the week for the period Dec. 19-25.

The 5-foot-10 guard thus became only the second player to be cited more than once. Only Shell's Tony dela Cruz has more citations with four.

Ginebra actually picked up a couple of wins last week with Helterbrand playing key roles.

First, the Kings outlasted San Miguel Beer, 83-78, in Laoag City last Tuesday. In that contest, Helterbrand was good for 14 points, three rebounds, six assists and two steals in 42 minutes.

And then came the win over the Phone Pals wherein aside from 33 points, Helterbrand also had four rebounds, eight assists and two steals in 41 minutes.

In the elimination round, Helterbrand averaged 16.17 points, 4.56 rebounds, 6.72 assists, 1.17 steals, 0.17 blocked shot and 2.67 errors in 37.5 minutes in 18 games. *June Navarro*

PBA wildcard phase gets wild and wooly

IF the PBA has its own dear Santa, he could have been in a tight fix right now as he faces complicating Christmas wishes which can't all be granted.

Just consider Talk 'N Text and Shell which are both hoping to be gifted the second outright semifinal seat in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup.

And there's San Miguel Beer, Purefoods and Alaska which have Christmas socks all after the No. 4 slot and the twice-to-beat incentive in the wildcard playoffs.

There's also Coca-Cola, FedEx and Sta. Lucia Realty all wishing to stay clear of the No. 9 spot to avoid a twice-to-win task in the next phase.

The picture in these muddled battles only becomes clearer as the tournament resumes with the final elims playdate on Jan. 5 at the Philsports Arena, pitting the Tigers versus the Express and the Aces against the Realtors. Barangay Ginebra is safe at No. 1 with a closing 13-5 win-loss card that gave the team early passage into the semifinals. *June Navarro*

The gift

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NOT even the best of gifts could spur Talk 'N Text to beat Ginebra San Miguel on Christmas Day. Life is filled with mysteries, at times, cruel.

The players of Talk 'N Text were reportedly promised a one-week vacation in America if they beat the Ginebra Kings on Dec. 25. A win would have pushed the Phone Pals outright to the semifinal of the PBA Gran Matador Brandy Conference.

But fate seemed unkind to TNT's players. They lost, 108-102. And Ginebra got the first semifinal slot, instead.

The aborted gift came from TNT boss Manny V. Pangilinan.

It was a bit sad that TNT lost because Jimmy Alapag fired a career-high 39 points. Alapag it was who personified TNT's desire to have that trip to America, banging home one triple after another. If this were a local action flick, Alapag was like FPJ: A one-man demolition team out to wipe out the enemy. At all costs.

Likewise, Alapag's teammate, Willie Miller, also went for it, not missing every opportunity to attack the basket. Adding Miller's 24 to Alapag's game-high 39, the duo's combined output of 63 was more than half of the team's total of 102. The remaining 39 were distributed to Yancy de Ocampo 15, Mark Telan 12, Patrick Fran 6 and Victor Pablo 6. Their four teammates—Salangsang, Ravena, Camaso and Belano—scored nothing.

You have two of 10 players fielded in scoring more than half of the team's output, don't you think something's wrong somewhere?

Not exactly, really. Alapag was super hot, period.

Not exactly, really. Miller was licensed to shoot, period.

Alapag has always been known to pierce nets with accuracy.

Miller has always been known to deliver the goods—by hook or by crook.

They did. Only trouble is, this day was different.

More than the thought of winning was the maddening specter of an American trip—during the holidays *pa*! Aha, America here I come. Welcome to the world of milk and honey. Land of the free. Home of the brave.

So jaw dropping.

So tantalizing.

But the gift must have been more of a bane than boon, a baggage than bargain.

Of TNT's 1-2 punch this dramatic day, Miller seemed a bit way off the mark, particularly in the dying moments of the game.

While Alapag was composed almost all throughout as he exploded those bombs of his, Miller exhibited uneven behavior.

Perhaps consumed by the thought of MVP's gift, Miller forgot about his splendid moves that made him league MVP only a while back. His errors in the homestretch were a result of his personal resolve to win the game all by his lonesome, totally forgetting the virtue of teamwork.

Ginebra also had 10 men fielded in, but unlike TNT, the Kings displayed teamwork so that eight of them scored-four in double figures led by Jayjay Helterbrand's career-best 33. Mark Caguioa had 22, Erik Menk 17, Andy Seigle 14, Sunday Salvacion and Rodney Santos 6 apiece, Rommel Adducul 5 and Miguel "Migs" Noble 4.

Andy Seigle became emotional and was seen shedding tears toward the end of the game.

I can only raise a glass to him.

He had only tears of joy—joy of winning, with teamwork as anchor.

In a team game like basketball, that's the best gift of all.

Super Maxi Konica Minolta pulls ahead; 17 yachts quit

SYDNEY—New Zealand super maxi Konica Minolta pulled ahead of its Australian rival Skandia on Monday as the Sydney to Hobart bluewater yachting race ran into heavy weather heading into the notorious Bass Strait, organizers said.

Seventeen boats had abandoned the 628-nautical-mile race by Monday afternoon due to broken gear or injuries to crew, including seasickness, according to the competition's official website.

Another eight boats were seeking shelter along Australia's east coast amid strong winds and rough seas, it said. At Monday's start, 116 boats were competing in the ocean classic.

After running neck-and-neck at the 24-hour mark of the race earlier Monday, Konica Minolta had pulled 8.5 nautical miles ahead of Skandia four hours later.

The duel was a repeat of the two giants' battle last year when Skandia beat the New Zealander, then called Zana, to the finish line in Hobart by just 14 minutes.

A third super maxi, newcomer Nicorette, was around 15 nautical miles off the pace and the 66-foot AAPT was a further six miles back.

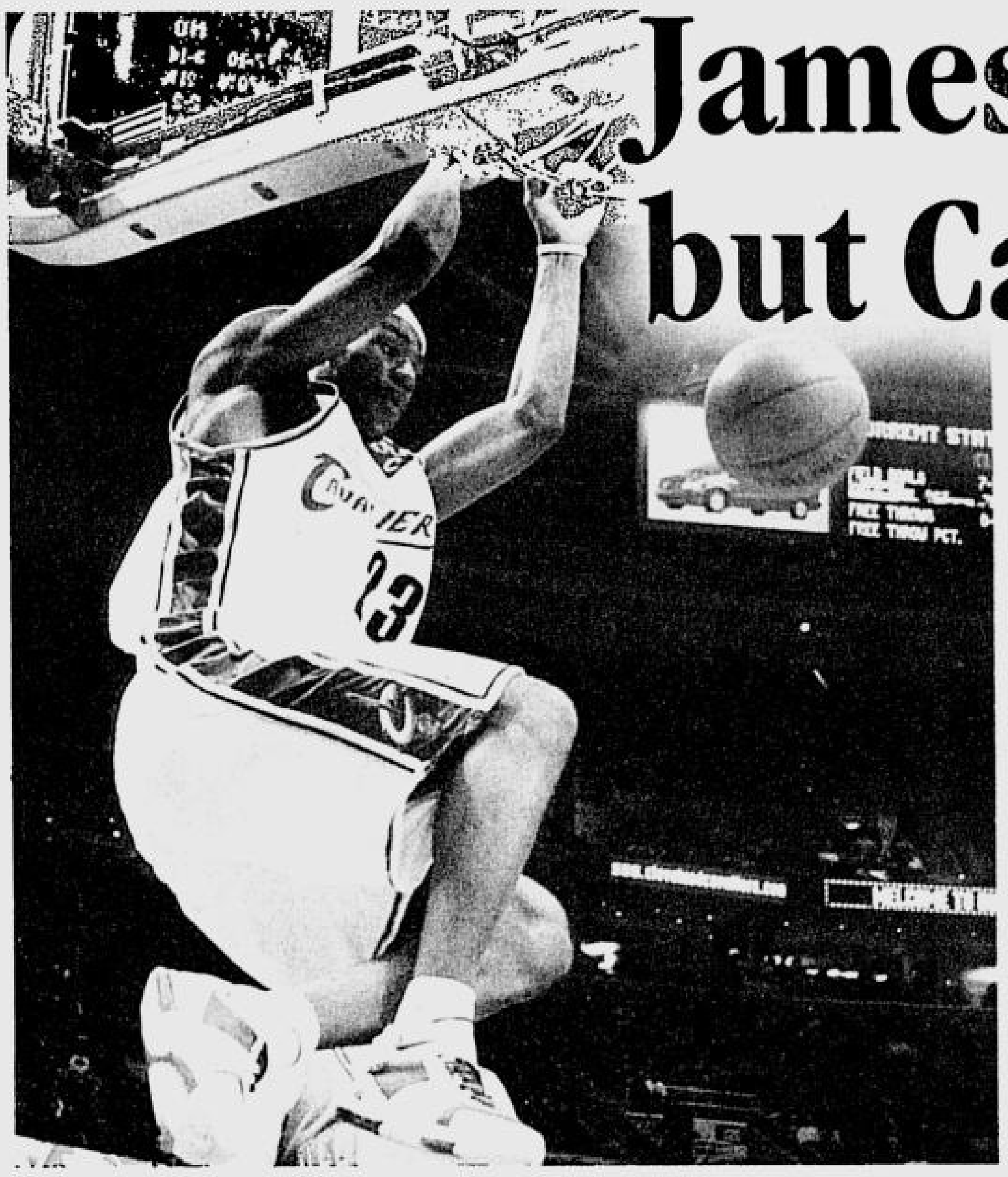
Organizers said the super-maxis and maxis, including the five around the world V0-60s, were coping well with the 25-30 knot south-westerly headwinds in Bass Strait but the rest of the fleet were struggling in the tough conditions.

The Active Factor, a steel boat sailing mid-fleet, was among competitors heading towards shore to "regroup" with crew suffering seasickness.

"We'll go inshore and get some food into the guys and see how they feel," skipper Brett Perry, said by radio. "We are not competing for anything other than being in the race," he said.

Other boats retiring from the race included Kickatinalong with a torn mainsail, Phillips Foote Witchdoctor and the Sydney 38 Zen. *AFP*

CREW of the yacht Love and War rides through the rough weather as they sail in the Bass Strait off Australia's east coast. AP


LEBRON James dunks against the Hornets. REUTERS

James misses milestone but Cavs hang on to win

NEW YORK—LeBron James came within one rebound of becoming the youngest player in NBA history to record a triple-double on Sunday hitting for 22 points, 14 assists and nine rebounds as Cleveland beat New Orleans, 100-91.

Three Cavaliers finished with double-doubles, Drew Gooden contributing 18 points and 18 rebounds and Jeff McInnis 16 points and 10 assists, including eight important points in the final three minutes to help snuff out a Hornets rally.

The defeat was the 12th consecutive road loss for the Hornets while Cleveland improved to 11-2 at home.

In Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire scored 33 points and was given plenty of support from Steve Nash, Quentin Richardson and Shawn Marion who each poured in 18 as the Suns defeated the Toronto Raptors, 106-94, improving their NBA best record to 24-3 with an 11th straight win.

The Suns had led by as many as 20 but allowed the struggling Raptors to pull level at 80-80 with just under nine minutes to play in the fourth quarter before going on a 12-0 run to regain control of the contest.

"That's the biggest thing right now, not to get complacent," Nash said. "We have to stay hungry." In San Antonio, Frenchman Tony Parker poured in a season best 27 points and Tim Duncan added 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Spurs past the Boston Celtics, 107-90.

Boston staged a second quarter rally erasing a 14-point deficit to pull to within 57-56 but could not find a way to pull out an elusive win in San Antonio.

The Celtics have not celebrated a victory in San Antonio since February 14, 1990, a losing streak that has now reached 14 games.

In Minneapolis, Wally Szczerbiak had 23 points and Sam Cassell 22 as the Timberwolves crushed the Washington Wizards, 109-74, to snap a two-game losing streak.

Kevin Garnett also made his usual major contribution adding 18 points, 12 rebounds, eight assists and four blocked shots to the Minnesota cause.

In Houston, Tracy McGrady and Jim Jackson each scored 21 points while Yao Ming had 20 points and 11 rebounds as the Rockets registered their seventh win in 10 games with 96-79 decision over the Los Angeles Clippers.

In Denver, Dirk Nowitzki drained a game-high 36 points and Michael Finley added 20 points and eight rebounds to help the Dallas Mavericks to a 102-88 win over the Nuggets.

In New York, Tim Thomas had a season-high 20 points as the Knicks withstood a late rally from the expansion Charlotte Bobcats to record a 91-82 win.

Nazr Mohammed and Allan Houston each contributed 16 points for the Knicks, who had five players in double figures and played without Jamal Crawford.

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd had a season-high 39 points and Joe Smith chipped in with 21, sparking the Bucks to 99-92 win over the Chicago Bulls and snapping a five game losing streak.

In Sacramento, Jason Richardson had 26 points as the Golden State Warriors upset the Kings, 98-94. *Reuters*

NFL great White dies after heart attack, 43

HUNTERSVILLE, North Carolina—Reggie White, a defensive end destined for the Pro Football Hall of Fame who retired in 2000 as the National Football League's all-time sacks leader, died early Sunday, his wife, Sara, said in a statement.

White, who turned 43 last Sunday, died at his home in Huntersville, North Carolina.

His family's statement did not give a cause of death, but ESPN.com reported he suffered a heart attack.

"Today our beloved husband, father and friend passed away," Sara White's statement said. "His family appreciates your thoughts and prayers as we mourn the loss of Reggie White.

"We want to thank you in advance for honoring our privacy." Considered by many to be perhaps the NFL's greatest defensive lineman, White had 198 career sacks with the Philadelphia Eagles (1985-92), Green Bay Packers (1993-98) and Carolina Panthers (2000).

His sacks record was passed last year by Bruce Smith.

White was the defensive star and spiritual leader of the Packers' back-to-back Super Bowl teams in 1996 and 1997. He had three sacks in the Packers' 35-21 win over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl 31.

Nicknamed "The Minister of Defense" for his dominance on the field and because he was an ordained minister, White retired after the 1998 season but returned in 2000 and played one more year with Carolina.

A two-time Defensive Player of the Year, White is expected to be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2006—his first year of eligibility.

After starring at the University Tennessee, White began his pro career with the Memphis Showboats of the United States Football League in 1984 and compiled 23 1/2 sacks in two years. Those were not included in his NFL totals.

White started his NFL career in 1985 with the Eagles, who held his rights, after the USFL folded. He had 21 sacks in only 12 games in 1987, one shy of matching the Mark Gastineau's single-season sack record of 22—since broken by Michael Strahan of the New York Giants. *AFP*

MARTINA
A LEGEND
LEAVES
NAVRATILOVA

Navratilova competing in Australia

SYDNEY—Tennis great Martina Navratilova will compete in the Australian women's hardcourt championships on the Gold Coast early next month, organizers said Monday.

Navratilova, the winner of 58 Grand Slam titles, will partner Nathalie Dechy of France in the doubles.

Navratilova played in last year's tournament in her first trip to Australia in 14 years when she teamed up with Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova to take the doubles championship.

The Australian hardcourt title was one of five doubles crowns she won with Kuznetsova last year.

Since turning pro in 1975, Navratilova won 167 singles and 174 doubles titles. *AFP*

Manning breaks mark for touchdown passes

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Peyton Manning broke the 20-year-old National Football League record for touchdown passes in a season in dramatic style on Sunday as he led the Indianapolis Colts to an overtime victory over San Diego.

Manning threw his record-setting 49th touchdown pass of the season—a 21-yarder over the middle to Brandon Stokley—with 56 seconds left in the fourth quarter before Edgerrin James scored the game-tying two-point conversion and the Colts went on to beat San Diego, 34-31.

"I'm just happy we won and, obviously, the way we won sure made it exciting," Manning said. "To have all those things come together was exciting." Manning entered his final home game of the season needing one touchdown pass to tie Dan Marino's NFL record of 48, set for Miami in 1984.

For most of the day, however, Manning was upstaged by Drew Brees, who celebrated his first Pro Bowl selection with three touchdown passes as the Chargers built a 24-9 lead.

The Colts settled for three field goals by Mike Vanderjagt before Manning tied Marino's record with a three-yard shovel toss to running back James Mungro with 6:11 left in the third.

Brees then engineered an 11-play, 71-yard drive which LaDainian Tomlinson capped with a 16-yard scoring run five seconds into the fourth.

Dominic Rhodes kept the Colts within striking distance, however, as he returned the ensuing kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown.

Manning then took over in the final minutes, directing a nine-play, 80-yard drive. He completed a 19-yard pass to Reggie Wayne on a 4th-and-4 play before unseating Marino in the record books with the pass to Stokley. *AFP*

WARRICK Dunn of the Atlanta Falcons is pulled down by Fakhir Brown of the New Orleans Saints during their NFL game. AFP

Villanueva powers RCME parbusters

GOLFERS from the Rotary Club of Manila East District 3780 dominated the 18-hole Centennial Paul Harris golf championship at the 6,814-yard Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Johnny Villanueva fired a net 73 to emerge overall champion in the charity golfest organized by RC of Greater Filinvest for out-of-school youth computer literacy program and Micro-Finance Lending to Disadvantaged Women in Brgy. Silangan, Q.C.

Eighty golfers saw action in the event held to commemorate the 100th year of the Rotary movement and the charter celebration of the host club.

Danny Fausto and Bunny Uranza, also of RCME, ruled Classes A and B among Rotarians while Romy Nones and Jun Manaog dominated Classes A and B among non-Rotarians.

Winners were awarded cash prizes plus trophies by sculptor Manny Gaza. Sr. Justice Reynato Puno hit the ceremonial ball with lawyer Arne Bayobay. NGAP president Benny Gopez and First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo cited RCGFI CP Rose K. Imperial for the event.

The results:

Overall champion—Johnny Villanueva73; Rotary Class A—1. Danny Fausto 76, Chito Borromeo 77, Benjie Bacorro 79; Rotary Class B—1. Bunny Uranza 75, 2. Alex Cureg 77, 3.Joseph Alcid; Guest Class A—1. Romy Nones 73, 2. Albert Garcia 73, 3. Simon Paguia 74; Guest Class B—1. Jun Manaog 75, 2. Rene Maniwang 76

Fun holes winners:

Daryl Abueva—Most accurate at Hole No. 12 (1 foot & 3 inches)

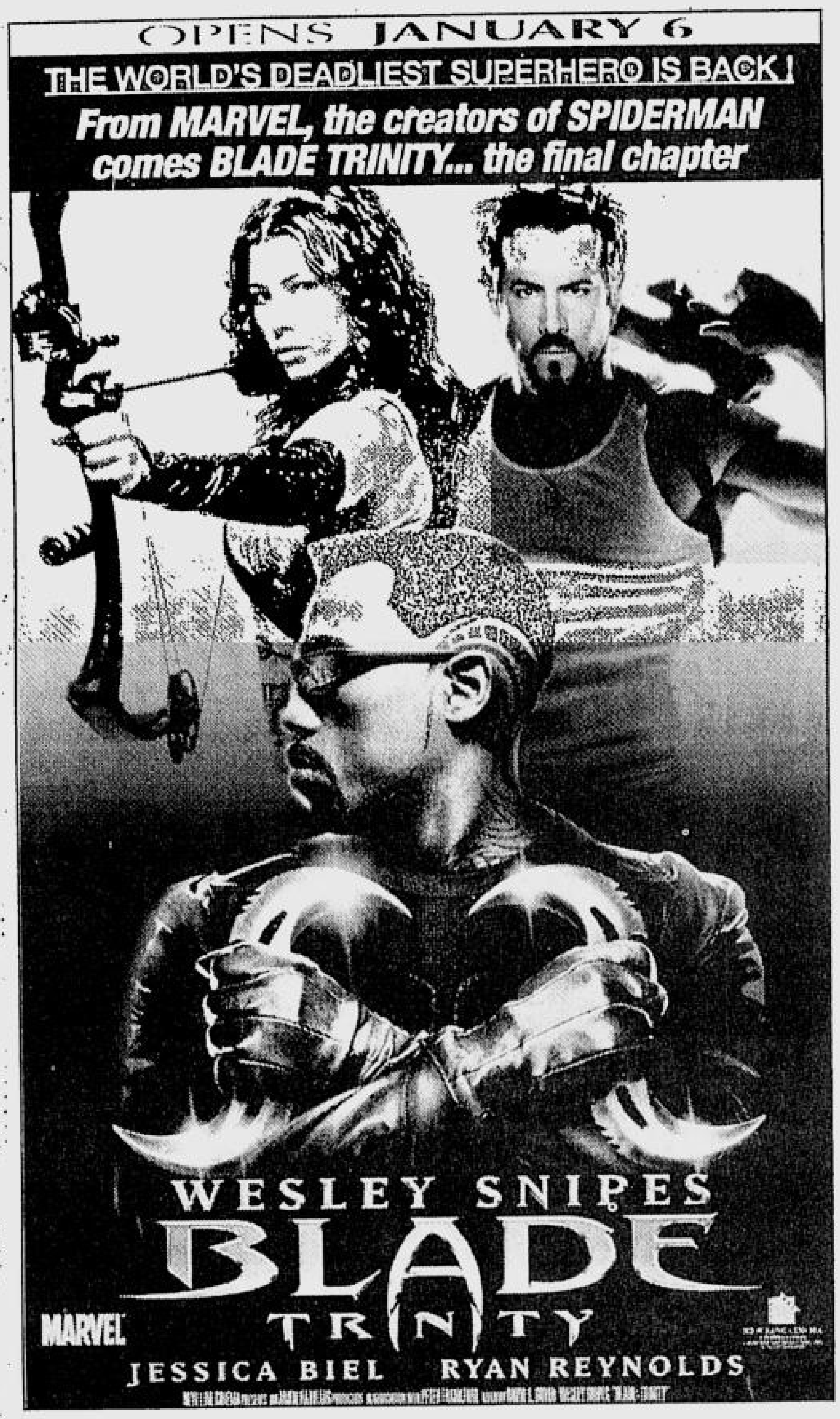
Alfredo Agcaulli—Longest drive Hole No. 4 (220 yrds.)

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Pitong Bakod 2. Race for Gold 3. Lady Be Gold 4. Tiger Winnie
Race 2—1. Amazing Firenze 2. Open Sky 3. Archer 4. Guest House 5. En Carta
Race 3—1. Tres Jeune 2. Hazmagic 3. Advance Party
Race 4—1. Flying Jordan 2. Unbreakable 3. Ebony Dane 4. Gemstone
Race 5—1. Coolmore 2. Sovereign Queen 3. Run Like D Wind 4. Mano Po 5. Mr. Bonjing
Race 6—1. Moab/High Octane 2. Chariot of Fire 3. Paramount
Race 7—1. Great Tower 2. Feng Shui 3. Express Strike 4. Angel Eyes
Race 8—1. King Lance 2. Money Order 3. Magic Dave 4. Sugar Ray 5. Take Ten 6. Calvin's Magic

Archers, Dolphins reign supreme


OPENS JANUARY 6
THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST SUPERHERO IS BACK!
From MARVEL, the creators of SPIDERMAN comes BLADE TRINITY... the final chapter
WESLEY SNIPES
BLADE TRINITY
MARVEL
JESSICA BIEL
RYAN REYNOLDS

By Jasmine W. Payo

THEY looked like teams that needed some luck to slip into the Final Four. But after staging amazing comebacks mid-season, the La Salle Green Archers and the Philippine Christian University Dolphins ruled in one of the more exciting and unpredictable seasons in local collegiate basketball.

"This is really a team of destiny," said coach Franz Pumaren after the Archers bagged the 67th UAAP championship by unseating defending titlist Far Eastern University Tamaraws in Game 3 of their Finals series last Sept. 30.

"A lot of critics were doubting us, especially when we went 4-4 (win-loss record) and some even said that we won't make it in the Finals," added Pumaren. "But we're really in good shape and proved that we belong this year."

But no one could have seen a more dramatic change in fortune than the PCU Dolphins, the cellar dwellers last year who unbelievably turned champions in the 80th NCAA season.

"When I came to this team, I didn't know the situation," said new coach Loreto Tolentino. "But I told them my only reason in accepting this job is to give them the championship."

Doormat team

PCU swept the University of Perpetual Help Altas—who similarly transformed from a doormat team to a title contender—in Game 2 of their championship series last Sept. 22.

Tolentino later confessed that his spartan training was the reason for PCU's unlikely rise to the top. "I know that they think I was too strict, *pero sinasabi ko sa kanila na magbubunga ito*," he said.

Gabby Espinas, a 22-year-old find from Olongapo, made NCAA history by winning both the Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year awards.

Veteran forward Robert Sanz, who averaged 17.5 points in the title series, clinched the Finals MVP honors.

PUMAREN PDI PHOTO

TOLENTINO PDI PHOTO

But unlike in the NCAA, there were no clear-cut winners in the UAAP as FEU leader Arwind Santos and La Salle hotshot Mac Cardona strongly contested the MVP plum.

Well-rounded performance

In the end, Santos bagged the top individual award for his well-rounded performance in the regular season. But Cardona proved to be more dominant in the three-game championship series by averaging 16.7 points, earning him the Finals MVP citation.

As nail-biting as the MVP race was Game 3 of the FEU-La Salle Finals.

The Archers were down by two points, 65-63, before sophomore JV Casio unleashed a big triple with only 25.3 seconds remaining.

FEU still had enough time to steal the ballgame but Dennis Miranda's basket in the final 2.2 seconds rolled around the rim before falling out.

Cardona grabbed the crucial rebound and later sank the insurance freethrows for a 68-65 decision.

Not too many predicted the victory as La Salle seemed headed to miss the championship series when it dropped to a mediocre 4-4 slate. Arch rival Ateneo was the heavy favorite after sweeping its seven games in the first round.

But the Eagles fizzled out, while the Archers rolled to eight straight wins for a seat in the Finals. Along the way, the Taft-based crew also repulsed Ateneo in two straight crucial games.

The constant adversaries finished the eliminations tied at 10-4. But the Archers claimed the No. 2 spot and the twice-to-beat advantage in the Final Four after routing the Eagles, 82-69, in their playoff match. La Salle later sent its rival packing, 69-55, in the semifinals.

"One thing that is also important is we erased the stigma of 2002 and 2003," said Pumaren, whose Archers lost to Ateneo in the 2002 championship series, and were later denied a Finals appearance in 2003.

Year of underdogs

Indeed, it was a year of underdogs and upsets as PCU also ousted defending champion Letran Knights, 85-80, in overtime during their semifinal matchup.

And everything just kept going right for the Dolphins.

In Game 1 of the NCAA Finals, PCU found a savior in sophomore Jason Castro, who drained a game-winning triple in the final four seconds for a dramatic 70-68 victory over Perpetual.

The crucial win came despite the absence of Tolentino, who was then serving his one-game suspension.

But perhaps, no coach is more controversial this season than Pumaren. The multititled tactician, who had detractors seeking for his ouster, surprised everyone when he announced that it would be his last year with La Salle.

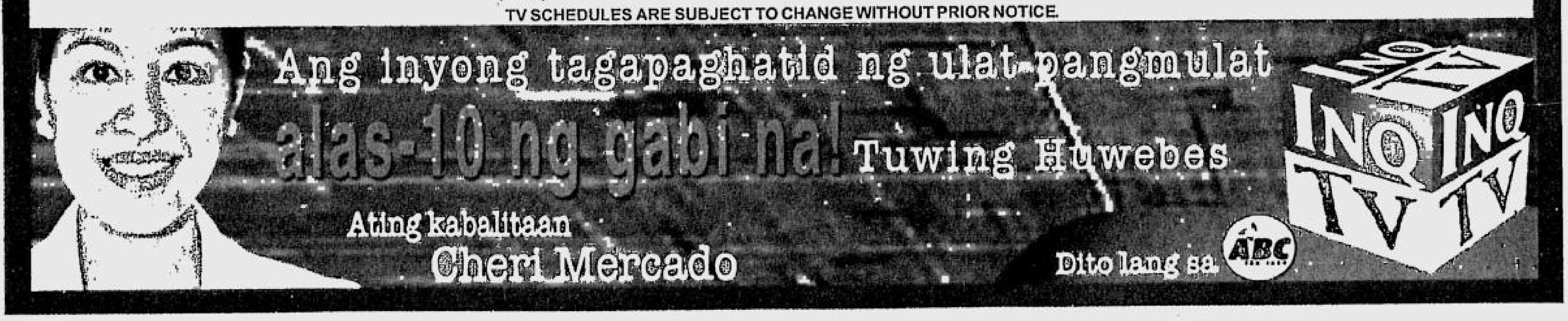
Pumaren, however, recently had a change of heart after the La Salle community, led by president Bro. Armin Luistro, clamored for his comeback.

MONDAYS 10:00 pm
popgi
When celebrities talk, the concert queen listens!
ABC iba tayo
MON-FRI 6:30 pm
SENTRO
with Ali Sotto and John Susi
ClickTheCity.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday December 28, 2004

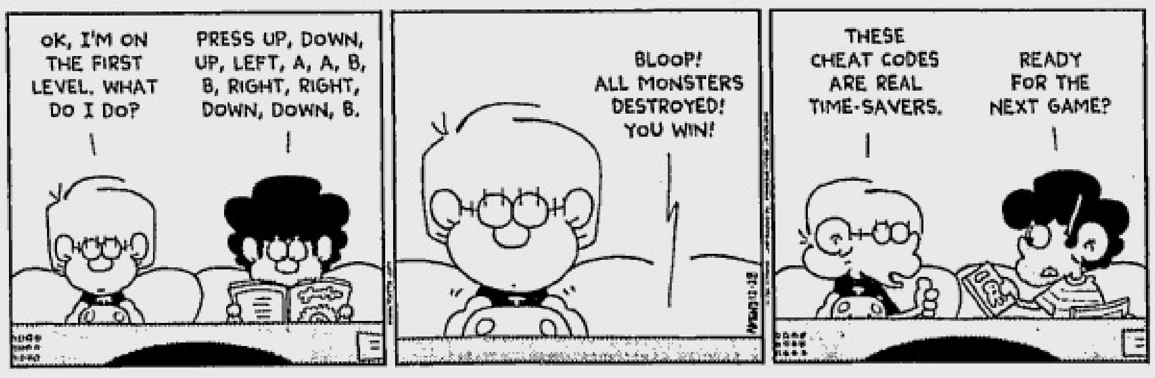
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Spirits	Krystala	Lovers In Paris	Hiram	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Bida Si Mister Bida Si Misis			Insider	Pipol
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision		APEC Primer 2		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Mosconi Cup 2003				Auto Focus	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	KNN	Anime Ring Kashio				Sentro	Lizzie Mcguire	Three Blind Dates		Wow Mali		Big News	The Probe Team Documentaries		Race Hour	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Snow Angel (3:45 PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15 PM)		Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	8 Simple Rules	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Crossing Jordan		John Doe		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
IBC 13		Japan Video Topic		EZ Shop		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV		Global Family Stories		Entrepinoy	Good Take	Travel	IBC News Tonite	Up Close And Personal	
Solar		Wwe Raw				Mutant League	Heavy Gear	Maxstel	Dungeons And Dragons	Stargate SG1		Soldier Of Fortune		RHD/LA		The Wire		Oz	
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Brother's Garcia	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Meet My Folks		The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	Knock First	One Tree Hill		The O.C		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One		S2pid Luv		Gaano Kami Noon, Paano Kaya Ngayon?				Kailan Sasabihing Mahal Kita		Biyudo Si Daddy, Biyuda Si Mommy				Kuya					
Studio 23	Bewitched	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	Fightbox	Smallville		Angel		News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		The Men's Room
AXN		The Amazing Race		The World's Sexiest Commercials		Fear Factor		Gensomaden Saiyuki	Gensomaden Saiyuki	7 Days		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias		The Amazing Race		The World's Sexiest Commercials	
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Road Trip		The Apprentice		UC Undercover/ Justin Timberlake Down Home In Memphis		Friends	Road Trip
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Thrill Seeker		The Sea Hunters		Treasure Seekers		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Thrill Seeker		The Sea Hunters	
Solar Sports		IBF Japan '04 Mad Dogs Finals		WTA Volvo Women's Open				Swiss Int'l. Cup 2004					NBA TV Daily	NBA New Jersey vs. Detroit					NBA TV Daily
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens Of	The Fix!	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	It's Good To Be	A Second Look		Look For Less	Style Star	Road & Track	Back To Basics	Planet Parent	Hot Off The Grill
HBO			Secret Santa			For Better Or Worse			Lucy			Enough (8:05 PM)				Sex And The City Finale		The Bourne Identity	
Star Movies				Fly II: The Insect Awakens			Heathers (5:45 PM)				Wrong Turn			8MM				Antwone Fisher	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	TBA					Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN		Eng. Premier League Highlights 04/05		2004 Acc/Big 10 Challenge North Carolina vs Indiana				2004-05 Big 10 Conf. Basketball- Texas Tech vs Iowa				Sportscenter Taiwan	NFL Football - Eagles vs. Rams						Sportscenter Taiwan
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax				Dirty Deeds (4:15 PM)				Rabbit-Proof Fence			Momentum			3 Ninja's Kick Back			Spy Game		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Picking Up & Dropping Off				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		King Solomon's Mines			Chanel (10:35PM)		Mysterious Ways (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Civilisations				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery		Best Of Discovery			
MTV Philippines		MTV Live		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits	05 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	MTV Lokal		Non-Stop Hits	MTV Bolahan	TRL		Punk'D	Wildboyz	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus				ADT Golf Skills Chall. Day1				Superbowl Cowboys vs Dolphins		NFL						WTA SFinal Tennis Philadelphia			
EWTN	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Mysteries Of The Rosary	My Little Angels	Angel Force	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Fr. Groeschel	Catholic Morality & The Catechism	EWTN Gallery	The Journey Home		Does The Church Still Teach That	Lord, Have Mercy	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	We Are One Body	Web Of Faith	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



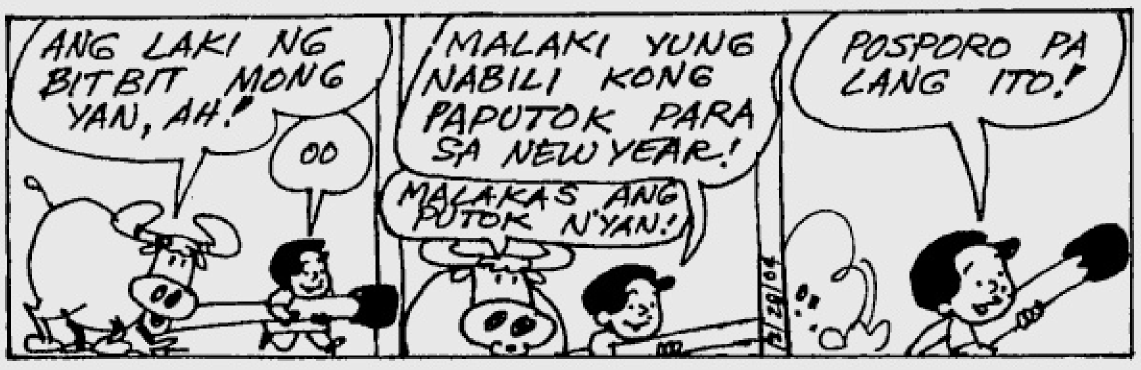
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


OK, I'M ON THE FIRST LEVEL. WHAT DO I DO?
PRESS UP, DOWN, UP, LEFT, A, A, B, B, RIGHT, RIGHT, DOWN, DOWN, B.
BLOOP! ALL MONSTERS DESTROYED! YOU WIN!
THESE CHEAT CODES ARE REAL TIME-SAVERS.
READY FOR THE NEXT GAME?

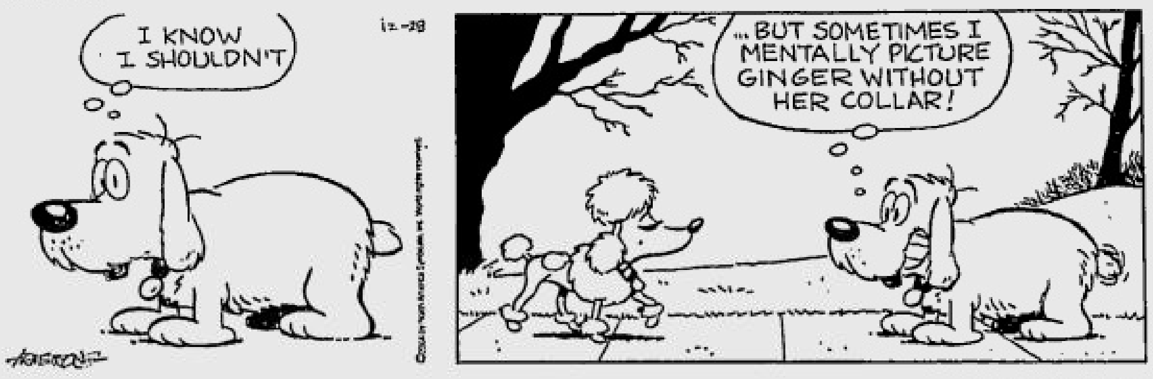
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG LAKI NG BITBIT MONG YAN, AH!
OO
MALAKI YUNG NABILI KONG PAPUTOK PARA SA NEW YEAR!
MALAKAS ANG PUTOK N'YAN!
POSPORO PA LANG ITO!

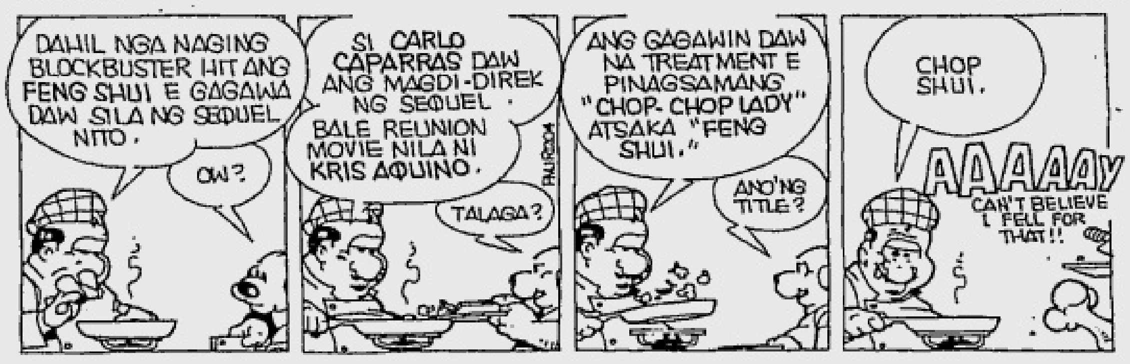
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I KNOW I SHOULDN'T
12-28
...BUT SOMETIMES I MENTALLY PICTURE GINGER WITHOUT HER COLLAR!

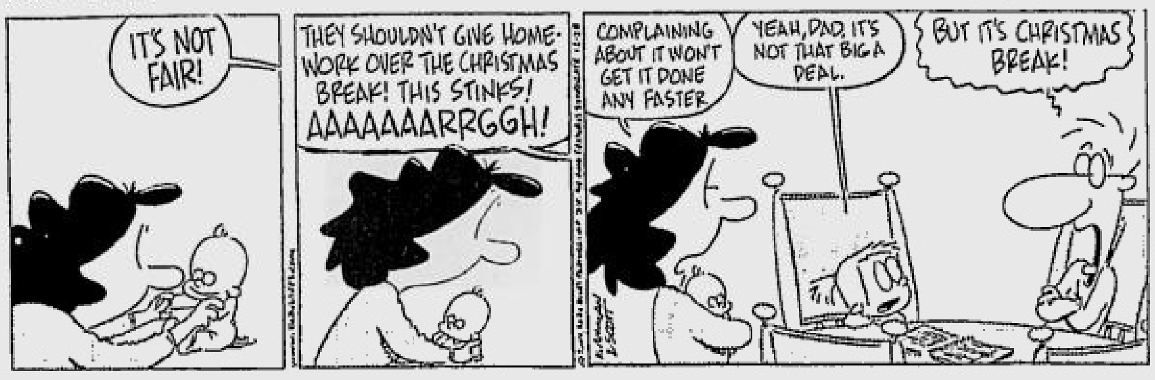
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAHIL NGA NAGING BLOCKBUSTER HIT ANG FENG SHUI E GAGAWA DAW SILA NG SEQUEL NITO.
OW?
SI CARLO CAPARRAS DAW ANG MAGDI-DIREK NG SEQUEL. BALE REUNION MOVIE NILA NI KRIS AQUINO.
TALAGA?
ANG GAGAWIN DAW NA TREATMENT E PINAGSAMANG "CHOP-CHOP LADY" ATSAKA "FENG SHUI."
ANO'NG TITLE?
CHOP SHUI.
AAAAAY
CAN'T BELIEVE I FELL FOR THAT!!

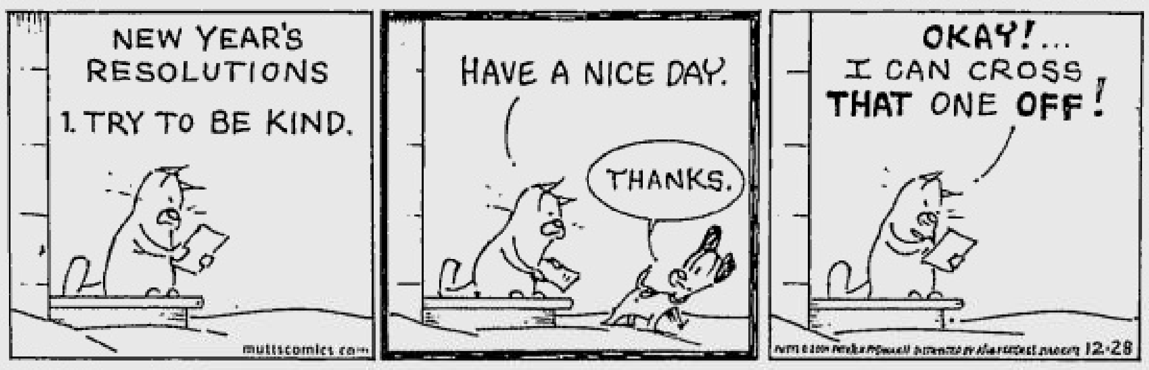
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


IT'S NOT FAIR!
THEY SHOULDN'T GIVE HOMEWORK OVER THE CHRISTMAS BREAK! THIS STINKS! AAAAAAARRGGH!
COMPLAINING ABOUT IT WON'T GET IT DONE ANY FASTER.
YEAH, DAD. IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
BUT IT'S CHRISTMAS BREAK!

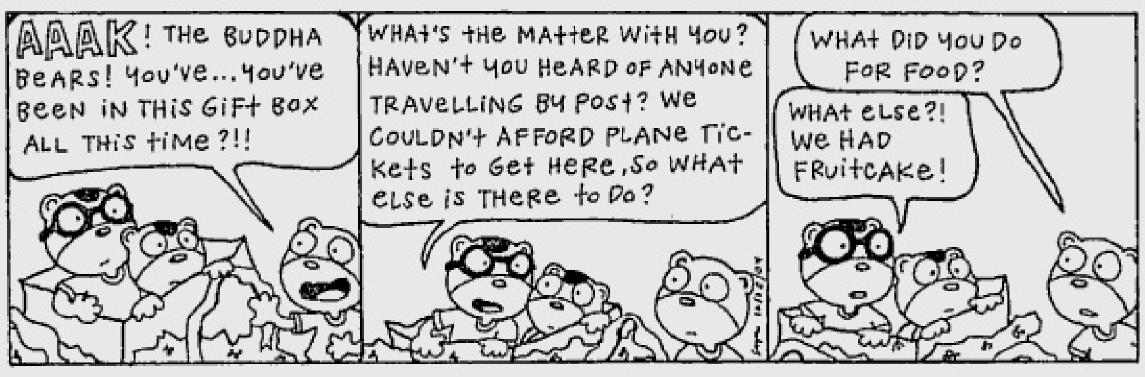
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS
1. TRY TO BE KIND.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
THANKS.
OKAY!... I CAN CROSS THAT ONE OFF!
muttscomics.com
12-28

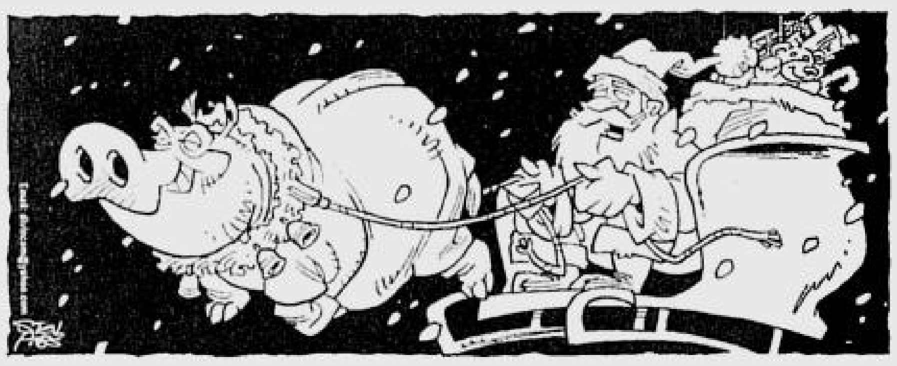
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AAAK! THE BUDDHA BEARS! YOU'VE...YOU'VE BEEN IN THIS GIFT BOX ALL THIS TIME?!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF ANYONE TRAVELLING BY POST? WE COULDN'T AFFORD PLANE TICKETS TO GET HERE, SO WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO?
WHAT DID YOU DO FOR FOOD?
WHAT ELSE?! WE HAD FRUITCAKE!

DIVINE COMEDY

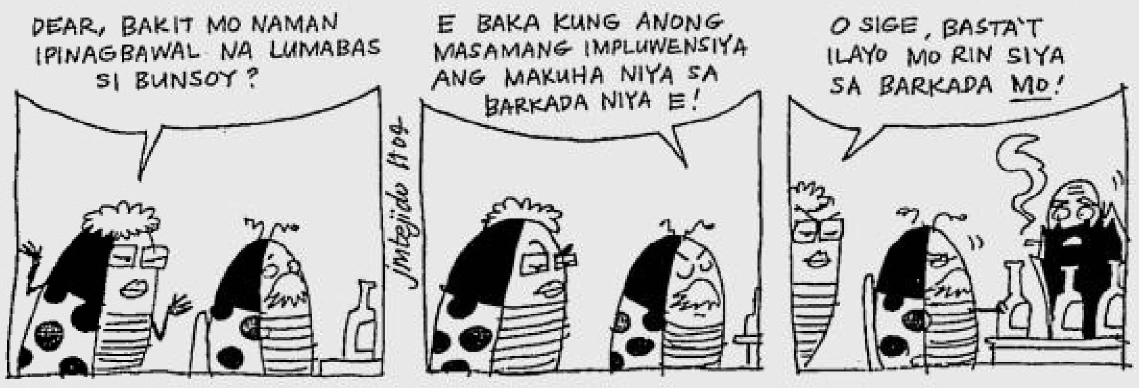
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



RUDOLPH'S RELIEVER: GUSTAV, THE PINK-TOED HIPPO

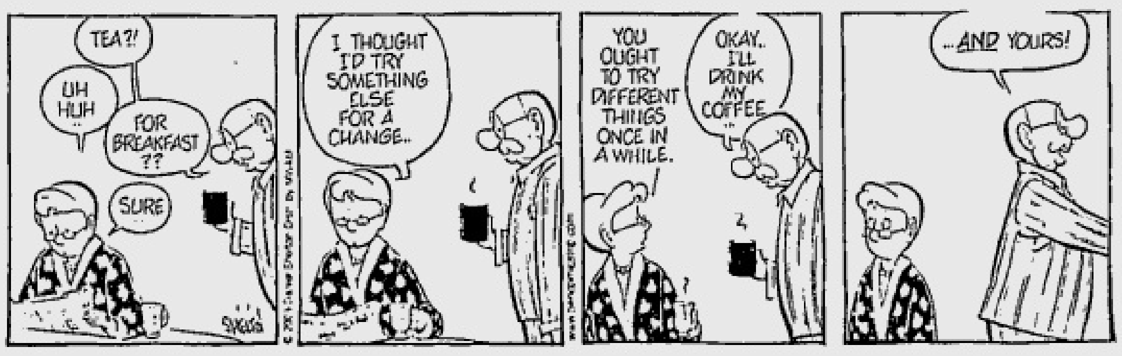
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DEAR, BAKIT MO NAMAN IPINAGBAWAL NA LUMABAS SI BUNSOY?
E BAKA KUNG ANONG MASAMANG IMPLUWENSIYA ANG MAKUHA NIYA SA BARKADA NIYA E!
O SIGE, BASTA'T ILAYO MO RIN SIYA SA BARKADA MO!
jmtejido 11.04

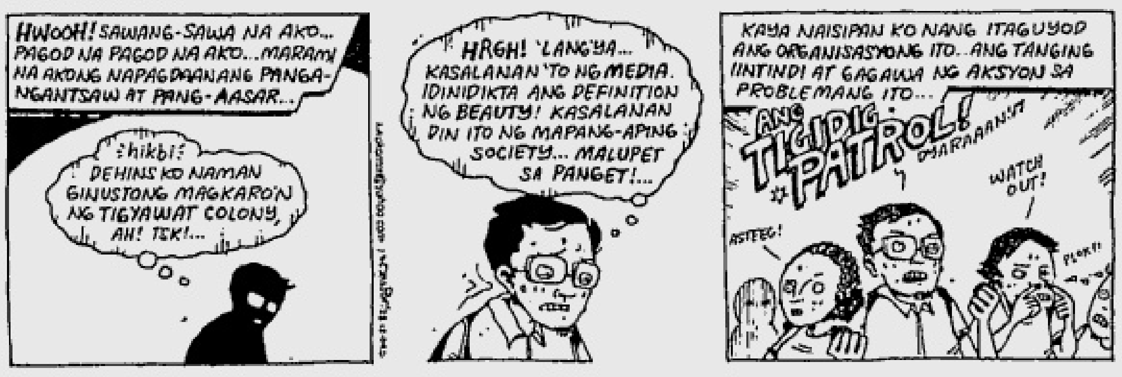
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


TEA?!
UH HUH
FOR BREAKFAST??
SURE
I THOUGHT I'D TRY SOMETHING ELSE FOR A CHANGE..
YOU OUGHT TO TRY DIFFERENT THINGS ONCE IN A WHILE.
OKAY.. I'LL DRINK MY COFFEE..
...AND YOURS!

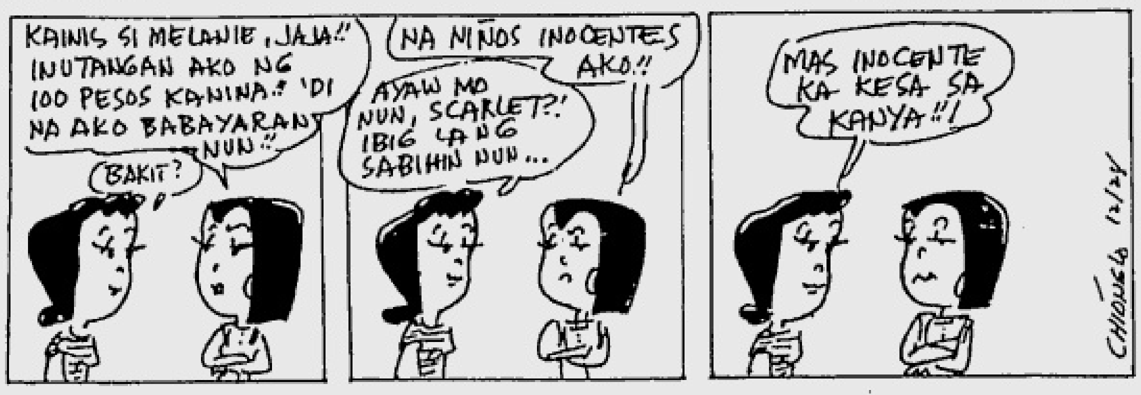
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOOH! SAWANG-SAWA NA AKO... PAGOD NA PAGOD NA AKO...MARAMI NA AKONG NAPAGDAANANG PANGANGANTSAW AT PANG-AASAR...
:hikbi: DEHINS KO NAMAN GINUSTONG MAGKARO'N NG TIGYAWAT COLONY, AH! TEK!...
HRGH! 'LANG'YA... KASALANAN 'TO NG MEDIA. IDINIDIKTA ANG DEFINITION NG BEAUTY! KASALANAN DIN ITO NG MAPANG-APING SOCIETY... MALUPET SA PANGET!...
KAYA NAISIPAN KO NANG ITAGUYOD ANG ORGANISASYONG ITO.. ANG TANGING IINTINDI AT GAGAWA NG AKSYON SA PROBLEMANG ITO...
ANG TIGIDIG PATROL!
DYARAAAN!
ASTEEG!
WATCH OUT!
PLOK!!

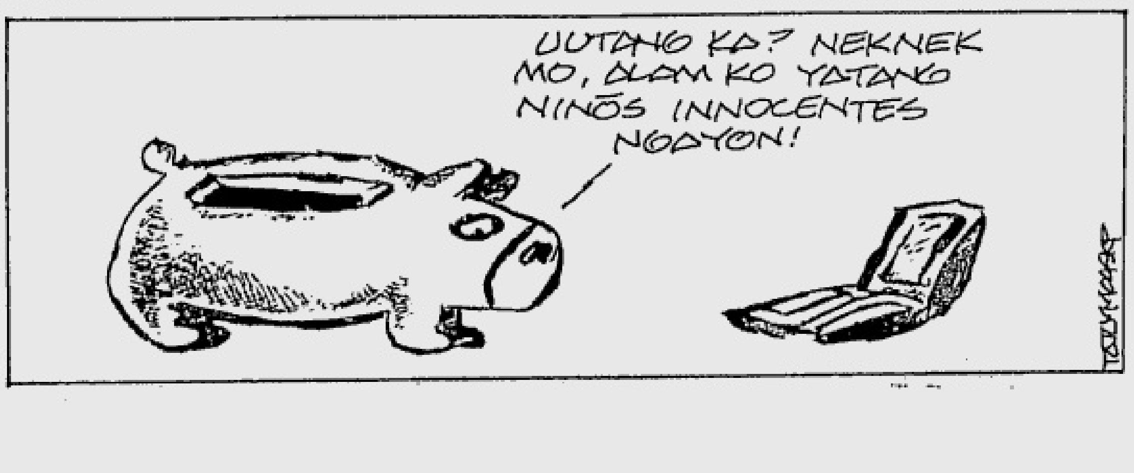
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KAINIS SI MELANIE, JAJA!! INUTANGAN AKO NG 100 PESOS KANINA! 'DI NA AKO BABAYARAN NUN!!
BAKIT?
AYAW MO NUN, SCARLET?! IBIG LANG SABIHIN NUN...
NA NIÑOS INOCENTES AKO!!
MAS INOCENTE KA KESA SA KANYA!!
CHIONGLO 12/24

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


UUTANG KA? NEKNEK MO, ALAM KO YATANG NIÑOS INNOCENTES NGAYON!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Others see you as confident and self-assured, and certainly sophisticated. (You might not share this view.) You have a powerful energy that you express in an elegant way. You're very stable and solid. Your core values are solid as well. This year you will focus on partnerships and close friendships. Some will begin; some will end.
Birthdate of: Denzel Washington, actor; Maggie Smith, actress; Woodrow T. Wilson, 28th US president.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have a silver tongue. You can talk anyone into anything. You can make people believe in whatever you fervently endorse. You're extremely convincing!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can easily express your affection for someone today, especially if this person is a passionate attraction for you. You might also want to give someone a gift.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is the perfect day to mend broken fences and patch up quarrels with someone who is close to you. Instinctively, you know what to say and what to leave unsaid.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're very skilled at your job today. You'll get cooperation from co-workers if you want their help. People are ready to assist you in any way today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day to write a love letter to someone. Perhaps you want to declare your love for the object of your affection. You definitely have a creative way with words today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might want to buy something to redecorate your home today. You want to make practical changes that are attractive. A family member is helpful to you today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You can earn money by talking today. This is a great day for negotiations and signing contracts. All business and commerce is favored today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have excellent moneymaking ideas today. Talk to others about what you want to do; they will see your point of view. All business transactions look good today.

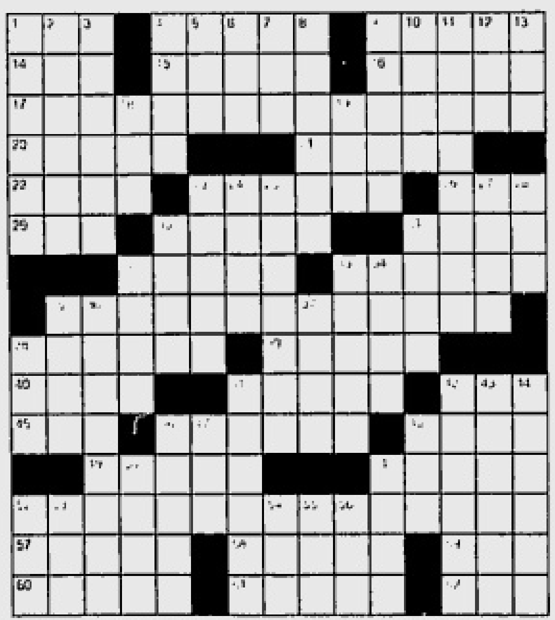
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're unusually diplomatic and smooth today. Sometimes your honesty is actually blunt, but today, you could sell ice to the Eskimos.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Behind-the-scenes deals can be quite profitable today. Your efforts to deal with the government and large institutions like prisons or hospitals are quite successful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You want to tell a friend how much you care. Don't hesitate; this is the day to do it. People are willing to express their affection for each other.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today you might sweet talk your way into a raise or getting your way about something. Bosses and authority figures are willing to listen to you now. Great! You've got something to say!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
12/28/04

ACROSS
1 Jersey cape
4 Chocolate topping
9 Remove the bolt
14 Needle opening
15 Moorland
16 Suspicious
17 Exit the fast lane?
20 Propelled, as a boat
21 Chef's garment
22 Force unit
23 Party in Mexico
26 Good buddy
29 Affirmative answer
30 Fireplace framework
31 Hits on the head
32 Snail trail
33 Hoodwinked
35 Pause for a bit
38 More minute
39 Bottom point
40 Part of B.A.
41 Strips a spud
42 Not turned on
45 Disappointing grade
46 Gives the third degree
48 Thwart
49 Brother of Moses
51 Move evasively
52 Cool it
57 Kilmer poem
58 Duck past
59 Afore
60 Gridiron measurements
61 Had status
62 Lay turf

DOWN
1 Memorable air
2 Naval affirmative
3 Longs (for)
4 Jettison
5 Up until now
6 Cheering word
7 Shoshone
8 Sentence snippet
9 Extreme
10 Roman tyrant
11 Garden prop
12 Circle part
13 Grain in a Salinger title
18 Two-finger sign
19 Suitable
23 Robin Hood's Tuck
24 Metrical foot
25 Everlasting
27 Copycat
28 Timothy Leary turn-on
30 High spirits
31 Quantum physicist Niels
32 Slalom equipment
33 Slowly disappears
34 "Miss __ Regrets"
35 Run out of steam
36 Aardvark
37 Banjo player Scruggs
38 Abe's boy
41 More rosy
42 Plenty
43 Barber of Seville
44 Showed some muscle
46 Green blades
47 Mythical bird
48 Opponent
50 All tucked in
51 Scott in a high court case
52 Pen on a farm
53 One of the Gershwins
54 In the manner of
55 Crackpot
56 HST follower

Monday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	P	S	■	G	O	N	G	S	■	J	E	T	S
O	S	L	O	■	I	C	E	U	P	■	A	W	O	L
W	H	A	T	E	V	E	R	M	A	Y	C	O	M	E
L	E	I	■	D	E	A	D	■	R	O	O	K	E	D
Y	A	N	K	S	O	N	■	S	T	U	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	E	D	■	S	C	A	R	■	A	I	M
S	H	O	U	L	D	T	H	E	■	S	C	U	B	A
W	O	N	T	■	S	I	E	N	A	■	A	D	I	T
A	B	U	Z	Z	■	N	E	E	D	A	R	I	S	E
N	O	S	■	U	S	E	R	■	E	G	O	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	B	C	S	■	A	L	I	B	A	B	A
S	T	U	D	I	O	■	E	L	A	N	■	F	A	B
N	O	T	U	N	T	I	L	P	I	G	S	F	L	Y
A	B	E	L	■	C	R	I	E	D	■	H	I	S	S
P	E	S	T	■	H	E	S	S	E	■	E	X	A	M

(C)2004 Tribune Media Services Inc
All rights reserved
12/28/04

Former manager sues Marlon Brando for sexual harassment

LOS ANGELES—Marlon Brando's former business manager has filed a $3.5-million claim against the late actor's estate, accusing the Oscar-winning "Godfather" star of sexual harassment and breach of contract.

The claim, filed on Thursday in Los Angeles County Superior Court and made public on Friday, says Brando "caused a hostile work environment due to his continuous acts of sexual harassment" toward Jo An Corrales during three years of employment.

The creditor's claim provides no further details of the harassment allegations, said Joel Pipes, a Newport Beach attorney representing Corrales.

If the claim is rejected by the estate's trustees, a lawsuit would be filed specifying the allegations, he said.

Corrales, a resident of Kalama, Washington, also claims Brando reneged on their contract by removing her as co-executor of his will just days before his death.

In addition to the fees she was entitled to receive as an executor, Corrales claims she was owed an estimated $500,000 in unpaid commissions she earned on residuals she had recovered on his behalf. The filing says that under her contract with Brando, Corrales was paid $5,000 a month plus 10 percent of his residuals.

Corrales is one of numerous creditors who have filed claims against Brando's estate since probate, or the court-directed distribution, of his $21.6 million in assets began in August.

Among others is Air Moorea, a Tahitian-based charter airline seeking nearly $500,000 in business costs for flying tourists to the Tahitian atoll he purchased in 1966, and a longtime friend seeking reimbursement for a diamond ring she lost down the drain of Brando's home in the Hollywood Hills.

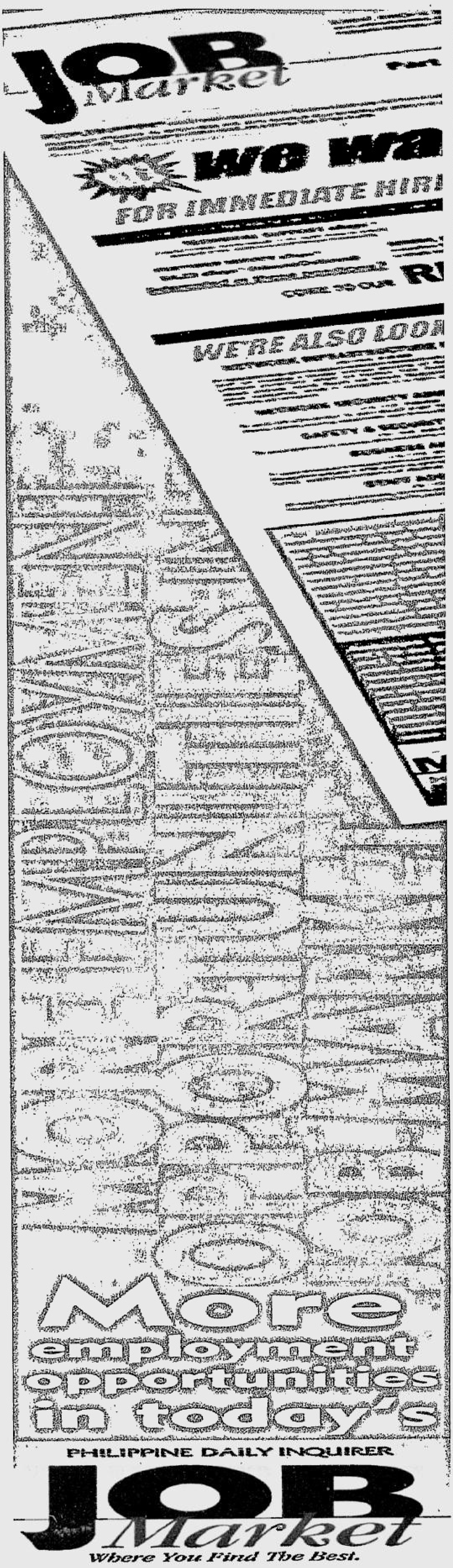
The probate petition filed by Brando's estate named nine of his surviving children as beneficiaries of his will and provides support to two longtime friends.

Film producer Mike Medavoy, business manager Larry Dressler and friend Avra Douglas were named as executors of his will, which Brando made in August 2002 and updated in June this year, about two weeks before his death.

Brando, who won Oscars for his roles in "On the Waterfront" and "The Godfather," was 80 when he died. The lawyer overseeing Brando's estate could not immediately be reached for comment.

Reuters

BRANDO



JOB Market
we wa
FOR IMMEDIATE HIRI
WE'RE ALSO LOOK
More employment opportunities in today's
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market
Where You Find The Best.

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 AISHITE IMASU	1 MANO PO 3	1 SIGAW	5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 MANO PO 3 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	1 LASTIKMAN
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA	2 ENTENG KABISOTE	2 AISHITE IMASU	6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30	2 AISHITE IMASU
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 LASTIKMAN 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30	7 ENTENG KABISOTE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LASTIKMAN 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30	3 SIGAW
4 ENTENG KABISOTE	4 HAPPY TOGETHER	4 HAPPY TOGETHER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 AISHITE IMASU 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30	4 HAPPY TOGETHER
5 MANO PO 3				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 SIGAW 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30	5 MANO PO 3

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1	PANAGHOY SA SUBA 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
2	HAPPY TOGETHER 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
CHRISTMAS RUSH BAZAAR 2004 December 24 to 26, 2004	BLIMS/AUTOMATIC CENTER December 13 to 26, 2004	TV ESKWELA SHOW December 29, 2004

ENTERTAINMENT LIVE!

GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES EVERY THURSDAYS TO SUNDAYS (7-10pm PIDO (Thu), ACOUSTIC JIVE (Fri), FIRST CIRCLE (Sat)	FIREWORKS DISPLAY EVERY FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAYS until December 26, 9:00pm, Greenbelt 3 Park

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents OH ROMEO at REP's GLOBE THEATER - January 14 to 30, 2005

Ayala MUSEUM Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117

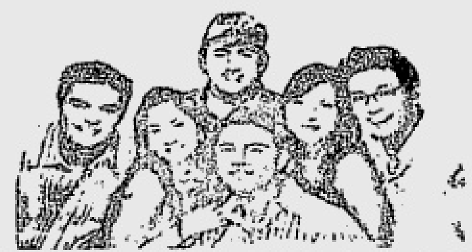
Stargazing at the Glorietta

Ayala Cinemas take pleasure in giving their loyal moviegoers the chance to meet & greet the stars of the 2004 Metro Manila Film Festival this yuletide season.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

December 26 12:30 PM Market! Market! cinema lobby 2:30 PM Glorietta 4 cinema lobby 3:30 PM Greenbelt 3 cinema lobby	LASTIKMAN Characters in parade
December 27 4:00 PM Glorietta 4 cinema lobby	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
December 28 4:00 PM Glorietta 1 cinema lobby	ENTENG KABISOTE
December 30 12:00 NN Market! Market!	LASTIKMAN
December 30 2:00 PM Glorietta 4 cinema lobby	LASTIKMAN

Have your picture taken w/ the stars for FREE and win exciting prizes.



AYALA CINEMAS LoveMall!

The 30th Metro Manila Film Festival opens December 25 in Ayala Cinemas.

Watch the 2004 MetroManila Film Festival entries in Ayala Cinemas and get special offers from our partners.

BURGER KING
P25 combo meal!

MC DONALD'S
Free drink upsize for every value meal

JOLLIBEE
Free drink upsize for every value meal

Promo duration: Dec 25 - Jan 5

Per DTI-NCR permit # A1-819, Series of 2004

cadbury chocolates for every one time purchase of 4 ayala cinemas movie tickets

Promo duration:
December 24 & 25, 2004

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-818 Series of 2004

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 752-7272; from 10am to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12mn • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart). Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

AYALA CENTER ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU LoveMall!

Superman's supervan goes to 14-year-old quadriplegic

CONCORD, New Hampshire—Christopher Reeve played a superhero in the movies, and now, two months after his death, he's a superhero to a 14-year-old boy.

Tyler Howard of Charlestown is a quadriplegic and has been in a wheelchair for 10 years. On Thursday, Reeve's family gave Howard the late actor's specially modified van.

Howard said he always wanted to be able to attend school functions, visit classmates and go to church and family outings. Until now, he could only go to school and his doctor's appointments.

Reeve, 52, died Oct. 10 of complications from an infection caused by a bedsore.

He won worldwide fame in our "Superman" films from 1978 to 1987. After his May 1995 horse riding accident, he became a spokesperson for spinal cord injury victims.

Howard was chosen to receive Reeve's van from thousands of potential recipients.

"I hope the van brings you great joy and freedom as it did for Chris," wrote Dana Reeve, the actor's widow, in a letter.

Howard, who requires 24-hour care, developed quadriplegia following a virus he contracted when he was 4. He depends on a ventilator and has a tracheotomy. *AP*

QUADRIPLEGIC Tyler Howard

'80s hitmakers plus Motown in Valentine concerts

From page A24

in Lahug, Cebu.

"Motown's Greatest Hits in Concert" runs on Feb. 13 and 14, 2005, at the Araneta Coliseum.

Scottish-born Easton is best remembered for her hits "Morning Train (9-5)," "For Your Eyes Only," the theme from the James Bond film of the same title, and "We've Got Tonight," a duet with Kenny Rogers. Her biggest hit, however, is the '80s Top 10 pop anthem, "Telefone (Long Distance Love Affair)."

Easton made her mark on Broadway in the '90s starring in such classics as "Grease" and "Man From La Mancha."

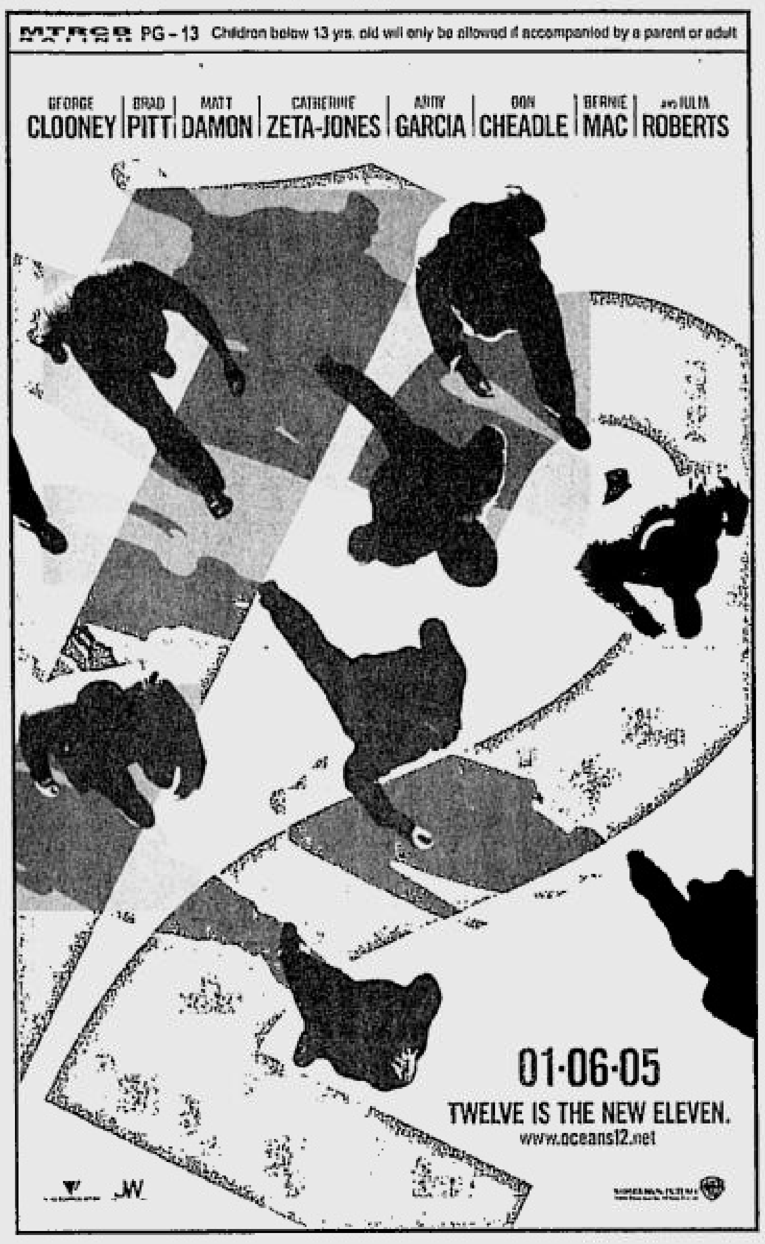
Dayne is one of pop music's most successful artists who has made her mark in the pop, dance, and rock as well as adult contemporary formats. Her Arista debut album in 1988 spawned the global hit "Tell It To My Heart" and the album itself went on to sell over 2 million copies in the US. Her second album, "Can't Fight Fate," includes her first US No. 1 smash hit, "Love Will Lead You Back."

Tiffany started the trend of teen female artists in the '80s when she signed a recording contract with MCA at the tender age of 13. Her self-titled debut produced the US No. 1 hit singles "I Think We're Alone Now" and "Could've Been" and the Top 10 hit "I Saw Him Standing There."

Her two No. 1 singles helped the album sell more than 6 million copies in the US and over 14 million worldwide. Her second album, "Hold an Old Friend's Hand," went double platinum and included the Top 10 hit "All This Time."

"Motown's Greatest Hits in Concert" is a grand soul revue featuring some of the original members of the musical institution, The Supremes, The Temptations and The Miracles.

Music fans will revel in the classic Motown hits such as "Where Did Our Love Go," "Baby Love," "Stop! In The Name of Love," "You Keep Me Hangin' On" by the Supremes; "You Really Got a Hold on Me," "The Tracks of My Tears" and "Love Machine" by The Miracles, and "The Way You Do the Things You Do," "My Girls" and "Get Ready" by The Temptations.



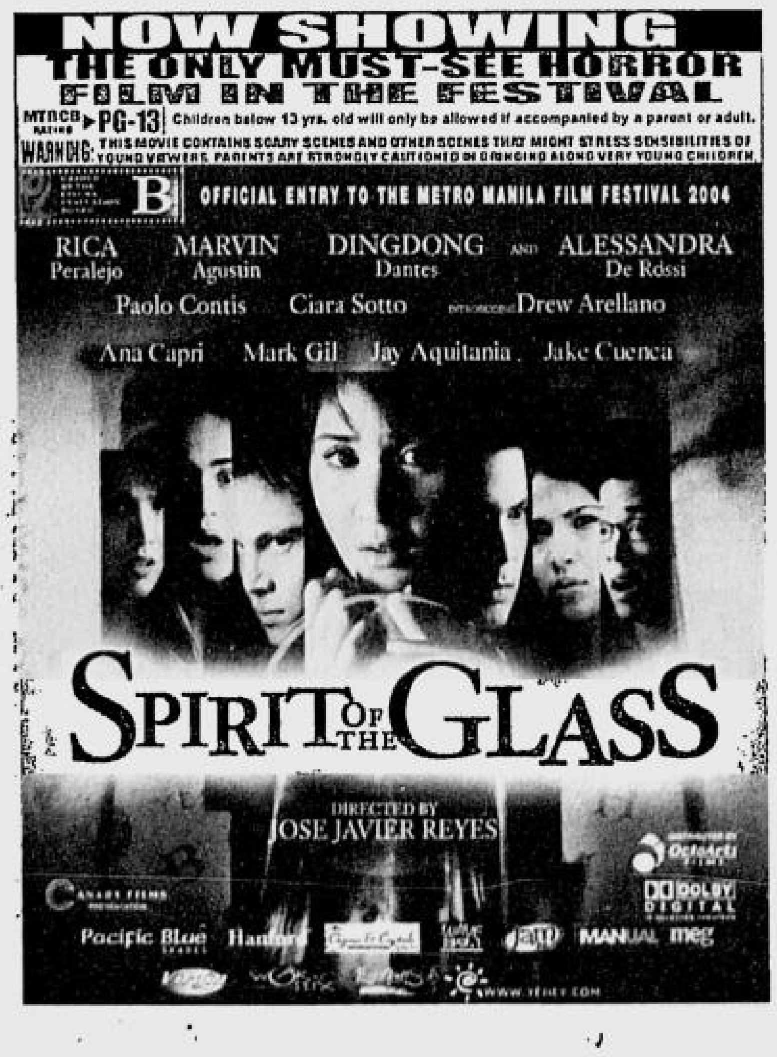
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
GEORGE CLOONEY | BRAD PITT | MATT DAMON | CATHERINE ZETA-JONES | ANDY GARCIA | DON CHEADLE | BERNIE MAC | and JULIA ROBERTS
01·06·05
TWELVE IS THE NEW ELEVEN.
www.oceans12.net

eric quizon
tonton gutierrez nova villa cogie domingo and gloria diaz
introducing jay-r
jennylyn mercado mark herras and yasmien kurdi rainier castillo
kris aquino
in
so... happy together
a film by JOEL LAMANGAN dgpi
Special Participation
carlo maceda paolo paraiso richard quan clint pijuan jon avila douglas robinson
Text HAPPY to 239
NOW SHOWING
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC.
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG 13

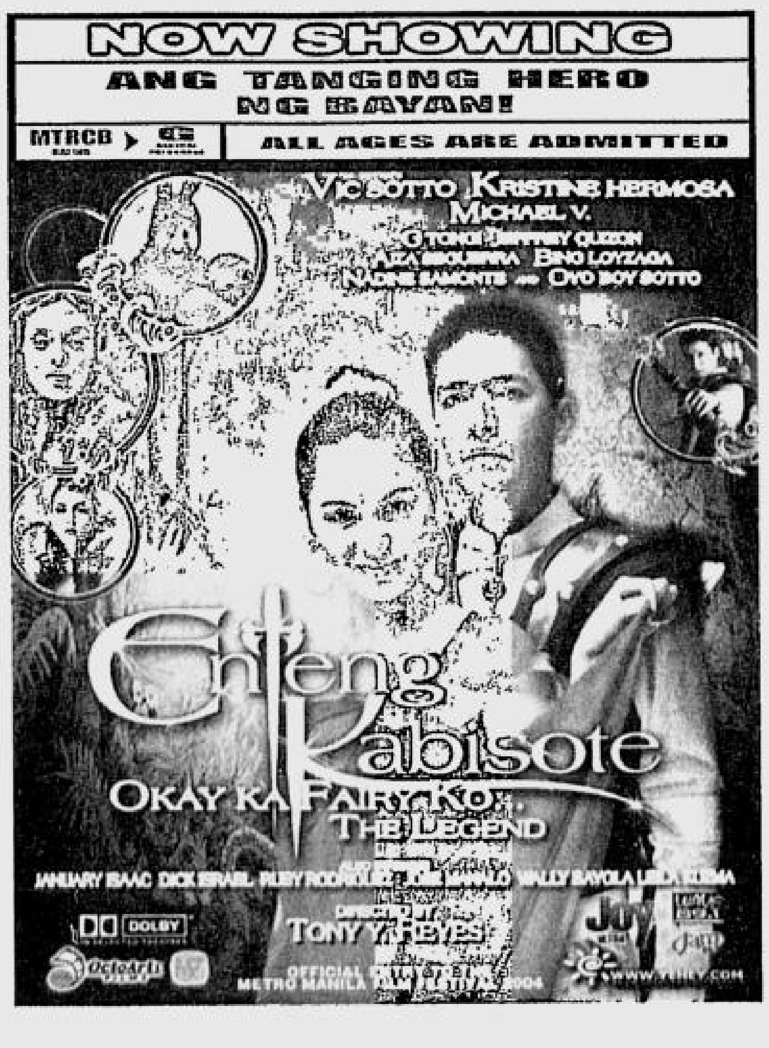
SIGAW NG SAMBAYANAN, LASTIKMAN ANG NO. 1 SUPERHERO NG BAYAN!
JOHN ESTRADA DANILO BARRIOS
ELIZABETH OROPESA JOEL TORRE MARK GIL BEARWIN MEILY
TUESDAY VARGAS MIKEL CAMPOS
AND CHERIE GIL AS LASTIKA
SARAH GERONIMO
MARK BAUTISTA
MARS RAVELO'S
LASTIKMAN
UNANG BANAT
Directed by MAC C. ALEJANDRE NOW SHOWING VIVA

MTRCB RATING ▸ PG 13
RAYMART SANTIAGO JAY MANALO DENNIS TRILLO
ANITA LINDA Ms. JACLYN JOSE ANGELU DE LEON TJ TRINIDAD IYA VILLANIA MARCO ALCARAZ YASMIEN KURDI
JUDY ANN SANTOS
AISHITE IMASU
MAHAL KITA
a film by JOEL LAMANGAN DGPI
1941
Text 1941 to 2346
NOW SHOWING
Globe mercury /manila
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004

jomari yllana
james blanco iza calzado
May kasama ka, 'di mo lang alam...
richard gutierrez angel locsin
in
SIGAW
pelikula ni yam laranas
ronnie lazaro ella guevara
TEXT SIGAW TO 2346
NOW SHOWING
Line Produced by REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. for MEGAVISION FILMS, INC.
Globe mercury /manila www.regal-sigaw.com DOLBY DIGITAL
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG 13



NOW SHOWING
THE ONLY MUST-SEE HORROR FILM IN THE FESTIVAL
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
WARNING: THIS MOVIE CONTAINS SCARY SCENES AND OTHER SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS SENSIBILITIES OF YOUNG VIEWERS. PARENTS ARE STRONGLY CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004
RICA Peralejo MARVIN Agustin DINGDONG Dantes AND ALESSANDRA De Rossi
Paolo Contis Ciara Sotto introducing Drew Arellano
Ana Capri Mark Gil Jay Aquitania Jake Cuenca
SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES
Pacific Blue MANUAL meg
WWW.YEHEY.COM



NOW SHOWING
ANG TANGING HERO NG BAYAN!
MTRCB ▸ G
ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
VIC SOTTO KRISTINE HERMOSA
MICHAEL V.
G TONGI JEFFREY QUIZON
AIZA SEGUERRA BING LOYZAGA
NADINE SAMONTE and OYO BOY SOTTO
Enteng Kabisote
OKAY KA FAIRY KO: THE LEGEND
JANUARY ISAAC DICK ISRAEL RUBY RODRIGUEZ JOSE MANALO WALLY BAYOLA LIBIA KUMA
DIRECTED BY TONY Y. REYES
DOLBY
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004
WWW.YEHEY.COM

MTRCB RATING ▸ GP
VILMA SANTOS CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
SHERYL CRUZ JAY MANALO and EDDIE GARCIA
PATRICK GARCIA ANGEL LOCSIN ANGELICA PANGANIBAN JOHN PRATS CARLO AQUINO
BOOTS ANSON ROA JEAN GARCIA KARYLLE DENNIS TRILLO
我的愛
MANO PO III
a film by JOEL LAMANGAN, DGPI
MY LOVE
NOW SHOWING
text manopo3 to 2346
MAQ PRODUCTIONS INC.
Globe mercury www.regal-manopo3.com /manila DOLBY
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2004

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (G

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

Whose film is it, anyway?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SOME filmmakers welcome constructive criticism, but they object to critics who tell them what to do to "improve" their movies.

This is particularly prevalent in the Philippines, where some people don't really respect artists' prerogatives all that much, and think that they have the right to impose their will on the makers of the films they criticize.

It's time, therefore, for self-styled film critics to realize where their "suggestions" should end. That fine dividing line can be defined by the answer to this key question: "Whose film is it, anyway?"

Years ago, we found ourselves asking this question when we and other members of the Film Ratings Board viewed **Peque Gallaga's** "Scorpio Nights." The movie was so uninhibitedly sexy that many of the FRB members were thrown off and unable to appreciate the movie's other, more positive qualities.

Worse, they were given to suggesting or even demanding that certain scenes or shots be edited out, or revised. In other words, they were telling the filmmaker what to do to "save" his film.

This bothered us, because we saw that the movie was much more than a graphic sex flick, and we were afraid that it wouldn't be given an incentive by the FRB.

We worried about this, because we were pretty sure that the movie would eventually be hailed as a contemporary film classic, and if the FRB didn't see it as such, the board would be criticized for its poor judgment.

So, we and a few other members really fought for the movie, initiating discussions that lasted for several hours.

We pointed out that the film was a telling study of the violence that attends Filipinos' concept of sexuality, and should thus be cited and rewarded for this.

But others objected to many "shocking" aspects of the movie, prompting us to point out that this was Gallaga's film, not ours, so we didn't have the right to tell him how to make or re-make his movie so it would conform to our preferences and thus motivate us to give it a tax rebate incentive.

No, all we could do was to understand and appreciate what he wanted his movie to say or do, and decide if that intent made it worthy of our support.

Even if we didn't agree with his methods, we could see the significance of his intent, and reward it, without insisting that he revise his film.

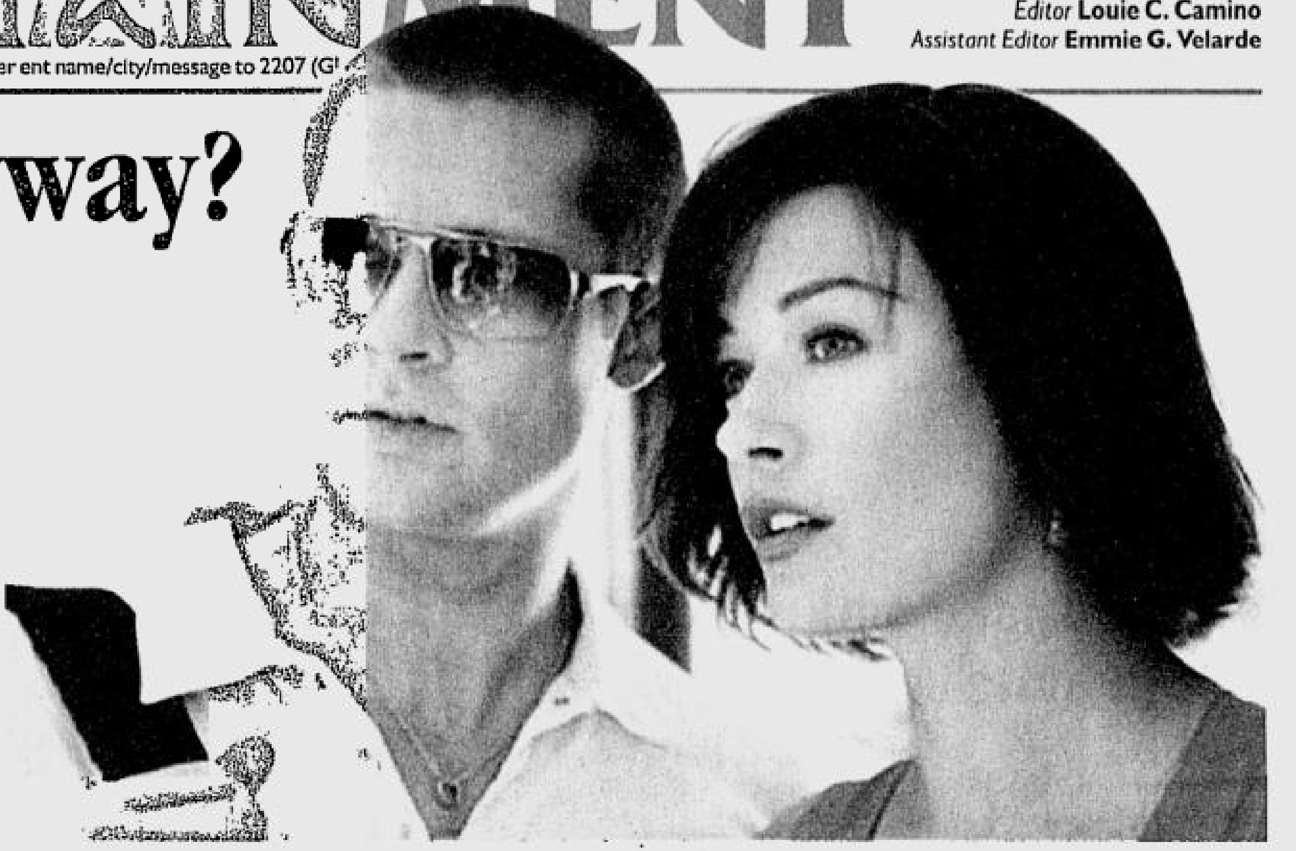
Well, after all was said and done, enough FRB members saw the light to enable "Scorpio Nights" to get a "B" rating that entitled it to get a 50-percent tax rebate.

We would have given it a higher rating, but "B" was good enough, because it at least showed that the FRB found the film outstanding, even if many of its members were initially turned off by its heavy sexual content.

These thoughts come to mind because some of our filmmakers are again complaining about the excessively intrusive critiques they've been getting.

They cite reviewers who blithely tell them how to "improve" their productions, and evaluators who detail what's wrong with their movies, *and* lecture them on what can be done about it.

Before things get worse, critics, jurors and evaluators should be reminded to again ask themselves, "Whose film is it, anyway?"—and take it from there. It certainly isn't their movie, so they should stop behaving like it's theirs to remake or unmake.



PITT FALLS. Brad Pitt and Catherine Zeta-Jones do justice to their roles in "Ocean's Twelve."

'Ocean's Twelve'

FRESH from his conquest of "Troy," **Brad Pitt** plays it cocky and wacky for a change in "Ocean's Twelve," where he reprises his Rusty Ryan role in "Ocean's Eleven." Once again directed by **Steven Soderbergh**, "Twelve" brings back the all-star gang of **George Clooney, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia** and **Julia Roberts**, with new cast member **Catherine Zeta-Jones**.

After the events of the first film, Rusty Ryan has' reinvented himself as a trendy hotelier in Hollywood. And his future holds more than another major heist—he may have a shot at real romance, courtesy of Zeta-Jones' character.

The relationship between their two characters is the major romantic interest of the sequel, so it was important that the production got someone as fascinating as Zeta-Jones to play Pitts' beloved. When the deal was closed, everybody relaxed because they knew the two leads would do more than justice to their parts—and they did!

SMART Buddy Pre-paid downloads zed 288

Christmas Magic

Christmas Magic Songs	Artist	Keyword
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas	*Luther Vandross*	HAVEUR
Santa Claus Is Coming To Town	*Michael Bolton*	SANTACLAUS
Jingle Bell Rock	*Billy Gillman*	JINGLEROCK
Silent Night	*Charlotte Church*	SILENTNITE
O Holy Night	*Josh Groban*	HOLYNIGHT
These Words	*Natasha Bedingfield*	TONE THESEWORDS71
Personal Jesus	*Marilyn Manson*	TONE PJESUS71
Shine	*Regine Velasquez*	TONE SHINE71
Dancing In The Street	*David Bowie*	TONE DANCING171
Tender	*Blur*	TONE TENDER71
These Words	*Natasha Bedingfield*	POLY THESEWORDS
Balla Baby	*Chingy*	POLY BALLABABY
Close To You	*Paul Weller*	POLY CLOSE2U
Liwanag Sa Dilim	*Rivermaya*	POLY LIWANAG
I'd Rather	*Luther Vandross*	POLY IDRATHER
American Pie	*Madonna*	POLY AMERICANPIE
Higher	*Creed*	POLY HIGHER
With Arms Wide Open	*Creed*	POLY WIDEOPEN
My Sacrifice	*Creed*	POLY MYSACRIFICE
My Own Prison	*Creed*	POLY OWNPRISON
One	*Creed*	POLY ONE1
What's This Life For	*Creed*	POLY LIFEFOR
Torn	*Creed*	POLY TORN

Christmas Magic
Available at all record stores nationwide
Sony Music

Text ZED to 288
We're giving away a Honda CRV (Your choice of color) every month and P100,000 cash every week!

Grab one today and you could win a Honda CRV!

New logos To download a logo, text LOGO <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles!

New picture messages To download a picture message, text PIC <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles!

New wallpapers To download an MMS wallpaper, text MMS <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles!

New animated greetings Text MSAVER <keyword> to 288 and get 3 raffles!

Also available to Talk 'N Text, Addict and SMART Gold subscribers. 15 Pesos per download of logo, picture message, tone, wallpaper and animated greeting. 30 Pesos per download of regular java games and themes. Note: In order for you to identify which musical work the ringtone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtone. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 333 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2631 Series of 2004. See flyers for details.

I ♥ SMART Simply Amazing!

SHEENA Easton

TAYLOR Dayne

TIFFANY

SHOW TIME

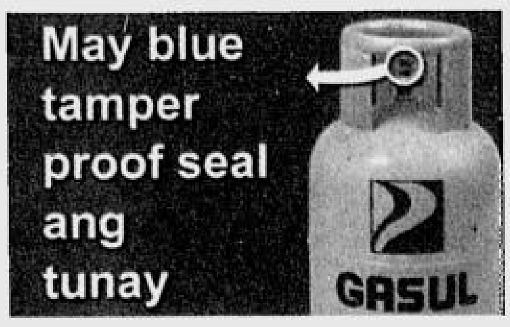
'80s hitmakers plus Motown in Valentine concerts

VIVA Concerts is the very first to announce another coup for the 2005 Valentine season: the two big concerts "Ladies of the '80s" and "Motown's Greatest Hits in Concert."

Sheena Easton, Taylor Dayne and Tiffany perform in "Ladies of the '80s," while The Supremes, The Temptations and The Miracles are featured in "Motown's Greatest Hits in Concert."

"Ladies of the '80s" will be held on Feb. 11-12, 2005, at 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum and on Feb. 1, 2005, at the Waterfront Hotel

'80S/ A23


May blue tamper proof seal ang tunay
GASUL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2004
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
B1
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

DELL™
PowerEdge SC1420
Performance, Availability and Simplicity at an Affordable Price!
Call now and buy at a special price!
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

Ecozone investments surged 62% in '04

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPORT-ORIENTED projects located in the various economic zones followed through with a year-long buildup as investments rose 62.5 percent to P46.1 billion in 2004 from P28.4 billion last year.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported that in December alone, approved projects reached P9.03 billion in new capital with average annual export sales totaling $441.5 million.

These projects are expected to provide 6,756 new jobs for directly hired workers.

For this month, Peza gave the green light to 35 projects, an increase of about 46 percent from 24 in December 2003.

For the entire year, the agency approved a total of 308 ventures or 26 percent higher than last year's 244.

Information technology-related investments numbered 50 this year, including expansion projects, raising the number by 25 percent from 40 in 2003.

IT investments rose 60 percent to about P6.67 billion this year from P4.17 billion in 2003.

The IT projects account for 19,135 new jobs, up 38 percent from 13,849 in 2003.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said a more conducive business environment for exports in 2005 was expected, which would prepare the sector for further acceleration in the coming years.

Purisima said there were already signs of the the uptick as major global players in the electronics sector reported increases in income for the third quarter of 2004.

DTI documents showed that Intel, considered the electronics industry's bellwether, registered profit growth in the third quarter of 15 percent to $1.91 billion from $1.66 billion in the same period last year.

Improved sales were recorded in Taiwan and South Asia, including India.

Net profit of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's bigger producer of custom-made chips for computers and other electronics and other electronic gadgets, jumped 84 percent to $823 million compared to the third quarter of 2003.

United Microelectronics, another Taiwanese major producer of custom-made chips, reported a net profit of $323 million or a 159-percent increase from last year's $124.67-million income.

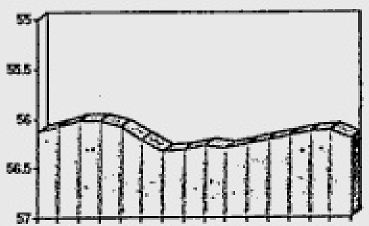
NEC Electronics of Japan also reported an increase in earnings for September to $167.7 million from $113.54 million a year ago.

The DTI is expecting exports to reach $50 billion in 2006 amid a bright outlook in the mining and information technology sectors, the firming up of a trade pact with Japan and the implementation of key infrastructure projects.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



DECEMBER

P 56.21 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 23, 2004

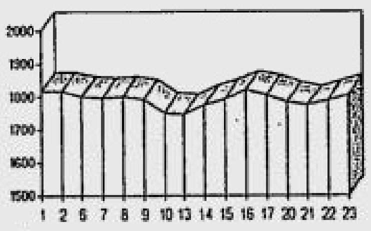
Y 103.74 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 24, 2004

GOLD: $441.80-442.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 23, 2004

United States	Dollar	0.746882	1.000000	56.1440
Japan	Yen	0.007169	0.009598	0.5389
United Kingdom	Pound	1.430055	1.914700	107.4989
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095983	0.128512	7.2152
Switzerland	Franc	0.647941	0.867528	48.7065
Canada	Dollar	0.601742	0.805672	45.2336
Singapore	Dollar	0.455555	0.609942	34.2446
Australia	Dollar	0.572191	0.766107	43.0123
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.981224	2.652661	148.9310
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.199163	0.266660	14.9714
Brunei	Dollar	0.454170	0.608088	34.1405
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000080	0.000107	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.019128	0.025611	1.4379
UAE	Dirham	0.203377	0.272301	15.2881
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.338900	75.1712
Argentina	Peso	0.252197	0.337667	18.9580
Brazil	Real	0.276213	0.369822	20.7633
Denmark	Kroner	0.134510	0.180096	10.1113
India	Rupee	0.017056	0.022836	1.2821
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.196574	0.263193	14.7767
Mexico	New Peso	0.067039	0.089759	5.0394
New Zealand	Dollar	0.532460	0.712911	40.0257
South Africa	Rand	0.132247	0.177066	9.9412
Korea	Won	0.000710	0.000950	0.0533
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023152	0.030998	1.7404

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Quiet trading seen

THE STOCK market is expected to be "fairly quiet" for the final two trading days of 2004.

"Vacationing investors ignored the signing of the bill on the indexation of sin taxes into law, the improvement in the tax collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue for November and the focus on the value-added tax bill and the dropping of the telco franchise tax and petroleum excise taxes by regulators," an analyst from a local brokerage firm said.

"There are no major market-moving news for this week and no eco-

QUIET/ B2

Hotel occupancy up as tourist arrivals rise

HOTEL occupancy took an uptrend as tourist arrivals in the first 10 months hit 1.86 million or 24 percent more than the 1.5 million visitors in same period last year, according to a real estate service firm.

Citing data from the Department of Tourism, CB Richard Ellis Philippines Inc. managing director Rick M. Santos said visitor arrivals were seen to reach 2.3 million by year's end.

This would mean a 21-percent increase from the 1.9 million tourist arrivals recorded in 2003.

Santos said hotels in Metro Manila alone posted an average occupancy rate of about 68 percent and an average length of stay of 2.7 nights from January to October.

He said that compared to the year-ago period, occupancy rose by about 16 percent from 58.5 percent while length of stay went up by about 3 percent from 2.6 nights.

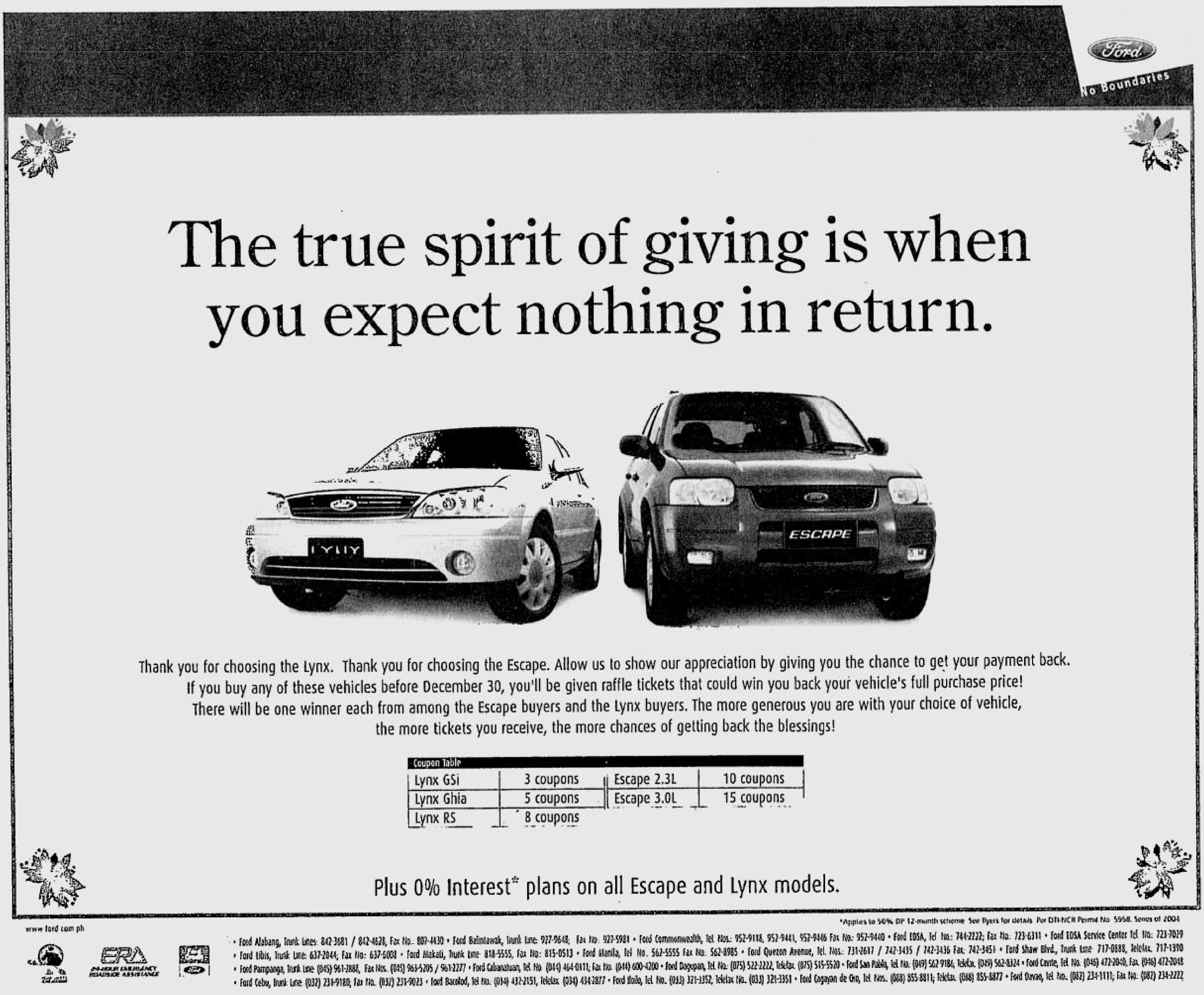
At the same time, the number of hotel rooms in Metro Manila has increased to 12,385, up 2.5 percent from 12,079 in 2003.

Santos said the occupancy rates of classified hotels were as follows: Deluxe, 70.1 percent; First Class, 65.5 percent; Standard, 65.1 percent; Economy, 54.8 percent.

"Aside from [a rise in the number of vacationing tourists], the uptrend in hotel occupancy rate stemmed from an increase in the number of conventions and seminars held in hotels," he said.

As for the high-end market, Santos provided the following figures covering the first 10 months: Makati Shangri-La's occupancy rate went up 26.4 percent to 73.2 percent while length of stay went down 5 percent to 2.18 nights; Mandarin Oriental was 81 percent occupied, up 12.3 percent, while visitors stayed an average of 3.6 nights, up 4.4 percent; New World Renaissance's occupancy rate went up 12 percent to 83.4 per-

HOTEL/ B2


Ford
No Boundaries

The true spirit of giving is when you expect nothing in return.

Thank you for choosing the Lynx. Thank you for choosing the Escape. Allow us to show our appreciation by giving you the chance to get your payment back.
If you buy any of these vehicles before December 30, you'll be given raffle tickets that could win you back your vehicle's full purchase price!
There will be one winner each from among the Escape buyers and the Lynx buyers. The more generous you are with your choice of vehicle,
the more tickets you receive, the more chances of getting back the blessings!

Coupon Table

Lynx GSi	3 coupons	Escape 2.3L	10 coupons
Lynx Ghia	5 coupons	Escape 3.0L	15 coupons
Lynx RS	8 coupons		

Plus 0% Interest* plans on all Escape and Lynx models.

*Applies to 50% DP 12-month scheme. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5958, Series of 2004

www ford com ph

• Ford Alabang, Trunk Lines: 842-3681 / 842-4628, Fax No.: 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line: 927-9648; Fax No: 927-5981 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel. Nos.: 952-9118, 952-9441, 952-9446 Fax No.: 952-9440 • Ford EDSA, Tel No.: 744-2222; Fax No.: 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel. No.: 723-7029
• Ford Libis, Trunk Line: 637-2044; Fax No: 637-6008 • Ford Makati, Trunk Line: 818-5555, Fax No.: 815-0513 • Ford Manila, Tel No. 562-5555 Fax No.: 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel. Nos.: 731-2617 / 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax: 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line: 717-0888, Telefax. 717-1390
• Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line: (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos. (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel. No. (044) 464-0111; Fax No. (044) 600-4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel. No.: (075) 522-2222, Telefax (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel. No.: (049) 562-9184, Telefax. (049) 562-8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel. No. (046) 472-2040, Fax. (046) 472-2048
• Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (032) 231-9180; Fax No. (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel No.: (034) 432-2151, Telefax (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel. No. (033) 321-3352; Telefax No. (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. Nos.: (088) 855-8811; Telefax. (088) 855-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel. No.: (082) 234-1111; Fax No: (082) 234-2222

Cell phone subscriber growth seen slowing down in 2005

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is projecting a drop in subscriber take-up in the coming year even as its two wireless units are likely to end 2004 with more than 19 million subscribers.

But despite the anticipated slowdown, PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said he believed that profits of the company's wireless subsidiaries would remain robust in 2005.

Out of the telecom giant's P20 billion in profits in the first three quarters, the wireless group accounted for P18 billion. Profitability of PLDT, which is expected to reach P24 billion this year, had been driven largely by significant growth in subscribers.

He said Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. added about 1.6 million customers during the fourth quarter from end-September's 17.5 million. Smart and Piltel are targeting to hit the 18-million mark this year.

"I think we would see a slowdown in net subscriber take up next year compared to this year's trend. Penetration rate this year is already 40 percent. Of course we will try to push the wall further and further as we have done already," said the concurrent chair of Smart and Piltel.

Pangilinan said the growth in PLDT's wireless subscribers in the fourth quarter matched the rate of the third quarter. This year, Smart and Piltel's Talk 'N Text added about 6 million new customers compared to only about 4.4 million in 2003.

"Net additions would be lower next year than this year," he said.

Pangilinan said 2005 would be a more difficult year in signing up more users and deriving higher profits from an increasing number of customers from the lower income bracket.

"It is more the unknown because we are getting deeper and deeper into the lower income levels. As penetration goes up, net income goes down. We're trying to push the penetration barrier further back," he noted.

"Logically, the revenues of Smart and Piltel would still be higher since we started 2004 with 13 million and we're starting 2005 with 19 million," the PLDT chair said.

The telecom giant is now looking at a full-year profit of P24 billion or more than double the P11.2 billion in 2003.

Mobile phone subscribers are likely to hit 33 million by year's end. Globe Telecom Inc. said its customers could hit 13 million from 11.7 million in end-September while third player Sun Cellular said it would end 2004 with about 1.2 million subscribers.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno earlier said the cellular penetration rate reached about 36 percent in end-September. He said total net additions from January to September this year increased by 75 percent from 2.5 million in 2003.

ATLANTA DURACON
uPVC Rainwater Gutter & Downspout System
The system that never rusts!
ATLANTA DURACON is the first of its kind in the Philippines specially recommended for residential and commercial use. Designed to prevent rust caused by salty coastal areas. It is durable and very economical to use.
Patent no.: 2-2000-00034
GUTTER TUBE
12" x 8'
18" x 8'
26" x 8'
Patent no.: 2-2000-00035
DOWNSPOUT TUBE
2-1/2" x 4" x 8'
3" x 4" x 8'
Another quality product of
ATLANTA INDUSTRIES, INC.
G/F. Goldhill Tower, 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. nos.: 723 0781 to 93 · 744 4700 to 03 Fax nos.: 722 8705 · 723 0576
Website: http://www.atlanta.ph E-mail: atlanta@netasia.net · ail@netasia.net
SGS
ACCREDITED

LONGWIN INTERNATIONAL CORP. CAUGHT SELLING FAKE "LONGI" VERMICELLI

On December 10, 2004, elements of Criminal Investigation and Detection Group accompanied by the lawyers of KING CAPUCHINO TAN & ASSOCIATES, the lawyers of SAPPORO PRODUCTS, INC., raided the place of LONGWIN INTERNATIONAL CORP. located at F.B. Cabahug Street, Mandaue Ibabao, Mandaue City and confiscated fifty two (52) pieces of 1000 grams of fake "Longi" vermicelli.

The search and seizure conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group on LONGWIN INTERNATIONAL CORP., a business owned by Jimmy C. Tee, was made pursuant to the Search Warrant issued by Judge Silvestre A. Maamo, Jr. of Regional Trial Court – Branch 11, Cebu City.

The elements of Criminal Investigation and Detection Group conducted its test – buy operation on November 29, 2004 on the subject establishment and confirmed the selling of fake vermicelli products by LONGWIN INTERNATIONAL CORP.

Mr. Jimmy C. Tee, the owner of LONGWIN INTERNATIONAL CORP., was arrested during the search and seizure operation for selling fake "Longi" vermicelli products in violation of Republic Act 8293 as SAPPORO PRODUCTS, INC. is the legitimate copyright owner and trademark holder of "Longi" vermicelli products.

Bullish year for pre-need industry seen

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has expressed optimism about the pre-need industry as confidence of the buying public is still there, SEC Chair Fe Barin said.

Just before the year ended, the SEC approved P3.5 billion worth of new pre-need plans to be issued by St. Peter Life Plans Inc. (P1 billion worth of traditional life plans), Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. (P965.34 million in fixed value education plans), Manulife Financial Plans Inc. (P800 million worth of pension plans) and Trusteeship Plans Inc. (P200 million in education plans and P550 million in pension plans).

St. Peter Life Plans Inc. sells traditional life plans that provide for the payment of memorial services.

Loyola Plans will sell plans that provide fixed value education benefits to elementary, high school and college scholars equivalent to P10,000 per one plan unit.

Trusteeship Plans has sought the SEC's approval to sell an additional P200 million in education plans with price increases and P550 million in pension plans with price increases.

Manulife Financial Plans will sell plans that provide for a pension benefit equal to P1,000 maturity value per unit bought.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 23, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	28,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	51	51.5	1,517,200
China Banking Corp.	575	575	575	575	120
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46	49	46	48.5	91,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	340,000
International Exch. Bank	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	243,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27	99,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	2,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	6,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2485	2485	2480	2480	70
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	110	110	110	110	50
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1815	1825	1815	1825	1,640
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	18,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	8,691,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	955	965	955	960	14,750
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	3	2.85	3	524,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.05	0.044	0.048	5,600,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	39,000
Mla. Broadcasting Co.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.5	7,692,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1315	1340	1315	1320	76,900
Ivantage Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	600,000
Philweb Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	6,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	300
Manila Electric Co. B	25	25	25	25	228,700
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.2	3,042,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	56,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	204,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	100,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	652,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.92	1.96	821,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	30.5	30.5	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	29	28	29	545,100
San Miguel Corp. A	58	59	58	59	144,900
San Miguel Corp. B	75	75	74	74	9,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	141,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	11,378,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	1,216,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.5	1.5	9,000
APC Group Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,900,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	55,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16	16	16	16	11,600
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	1,450,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	2,810,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	80,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	1,361,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	260,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.65	4.75	4.65	4.7	667,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	475,600
Macroasia Corp.	2.44	2.55	2.4	2.46	5,296,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	2,007,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.32	20,930,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.85	170,000
Univida Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	140,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	3,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	1,470,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	11	11	11	11	800
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1	1.04	3,738,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	90,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	830,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	14,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.75	437,000
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	50,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	9	8.5	8.9	236,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.1	7	7.1	3,903,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.225	0.23	5,820,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.135	0.135	1,590,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.14	8,723,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	590,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	40,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	120,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	1,411,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	9,641,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	100,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc.B	0.4	0.42	0.38	0.4	330,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	84,500,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	4,000
Benguet Corp. A	3.25	3.4	3.25	3.4	58,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	3,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.37	0.34	0.35	62,090,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.43	45,560,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	399,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	257,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	128,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.67	0.7	0.67	0.69	5,730,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.71	0.75	0.71	0.75	13,780,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	800,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	280,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.3	2.34	2.3	2.34	39,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.045	0.055	0.045	0.048	48,900,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	520,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,498,280	93,886,250.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	238,227,350	340,251,055.00
PRO	32,688,000	116,944,060.00
Mining	997,655,000	72,669,900.00
OIL	115,739,000	3,040,230.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,386,807,630	626,791,495.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	534.66	UP 7.12
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,790.15	UP 19.21
PRO	680.10	UP 13.27
Mining	2,953.77	DOWN 6.16
OIL	1.96	UP 0.01
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,150.20	UP 3.64
Composite	1,807.49	UP 17.75

NO. OF ADVANCES: 46, NO. OF DECLINES: 24, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 111, NO. OF TRADES. 2,790

Hotel occupancy up . . .

From page B1

cent while length of stay went up 25 percent to 2.04 nights, and The Peninsula was 69.3 percent occupied, up 17 percent, while visitors stayed an average of 2.66 nights, up 1.1 percent.

"Oakwood Premier Ayala Center has consistently been among the best-performing properties in Makati and is a favored place for [business process outsourcing] managers," Santos said.

Without giving numbers, he said Oakwood had been breaking its own occupancy records. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Quiet trading seen

From page B1

nomic indicators scheduled for release. The Phisix is trading within a range and should continue to trade within this range (this) week," the analyst added.

However, Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities, said "momentum and last-minute window-dressing may help the market have a positive bias for the final two trading sessions of the year."

He added that gains may be smaller as the index is seen to trade between 1,740 and 1,830. Last week, the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index ended flat, adding 1.16 points or 0.06 percent to close at 1,807.49 last Thursday. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

CURBING FOREX SPECULATION

BSP tightens rules on bank investments in debt

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has tightened the rules on banks' investments in debt and equity papers, making it more costly to use these as cash cows for unscrupulous activities like foreign exchange speculation.

BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Alberto Reyes said the policy-making Monetary Board approved last week the revised rules on the accounting treatment of securities in line with the International Accounting Standards.

Under the new rules, financial institutions are required to classify their outstanding investments in debt and equity securities based on their intention for holding or purchasing the securities.

Securities intended to be held until maturity will henceforth fall under the held-to-maturity (HTM) category, replacing the investment in bonds and other debt instruments (ibodi) account.

On the other hand, the trading account securities (TAS) account, which consists of debt and equity securities purchased and held principally with the intention of selling or repurchasing them in the near term, has been renamed held-for-trading securities (HFT).

The new rules basically make it more difficult for banks to shuffle the securities from one account to another, as a "tainting" provision on HTM or formerly ibodi was introduced.

"The HTM portfolio will be considered tainted when a financial institution sells or reclassifies a significant amount of HTM securities prior to maturity for reasons that are not considered permissible under the new regulations," Reyes said.

Sales or reclassification of one percent or more of the outstanding HTM portfolio will be considered as a "significant" amount.

Financial institutions with "tainted" HTM portfolio will, in turn, be required to reclassify the remaining securities in this portfolio to available-for-sale securities, which should thus be marked-to-market. They will likewise be prohibited from using the HTM account during the reporting period in which the sales occurred and for the succeeding two years.

To impose discipline in the classification of securities as mandated by IAS-39, banks will be prohibited from transferring securities into or out of the HFT.

The sales exempted from the "tainting" provision include the following:

- those that occur close to maturity or less than three months before maturity;
- those that occur after the financial institution has substantially collected all or at least 85 percent of the security's original principal through scheduled payments or prepayments, or
- those that are attributable to an isolated event that is beyond the financial institution's control, is non-recurring and could not have been reasonably anticipated by the financial institution.

Early this year when the peso was falling to historic lows, the BSP threatened to slap loan-loss provisions on the ibodi accounts if it could be established that these were being used to generate liquidity for dollar hoarding.

In other countries, even ibodis were required to be marked-to-market. The "tainting" provision now seeks to discourage the unscrupulous use of these accounts.

Under the BSP's existing circular 161, banks' ibodi should not exceed 50 percent of adjusted net worth plus 40 percent of total deposit liabilities.

For foreign bank branches, the adjusted net worth will include "net due to head office/branches/agencies," which will not exceed the equivalent of four times the amount of permanently assigned capital. For foreign bank branches with expanded commercial banking authority, the required ratio will be four times the amount of permanently assigned capital.

Neda pushes dev't of other export products

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority (Neda) is calling for the promotion of other local industries aside from electronics and garments due to the growth risks faced by the country's two biggest export earners in 2005.

According to Neda Director General Romulo Neri, the country should shift from its heavy dependence on electronics and garments for its export earnings, and that the private sector and the government should instead help develop other industries.

Neri stressed the need for a diversified source of export earnings because of the projected slowdown in global demand for electronics and the phaseout of the quota system for garment exports, which is expected to hurt Philippine exporters.

The Neda chief cited industries like food processing, furniture and jewelry, which he said the Philippines could strongly compete in. He also called for the further development of the business process outsourcing industry. He said these sectors, if supported, had a good chance of compensating for the possible decline in earnings from electronics and garments.

The country's chief economic planner said the government should address the concerns of local industries in a more focused manner, considering the country's need to diversify its source of economic growth.

Neri specified the need to reduce the cost of electricity, which has been a major drag to the income of local industries.

He suggested that the government pursue efforts to privatize the assets of National Power Corp. and the "open access" mechanism, whereby businesses can directly source their electricity requirements from a host of generation companies to reduce cost.

"We need to reduce the cost of doing business, such as through better infrastructure and lower power rates," Neri said in a telephone interview.

The Asian Development Bank earlier predicted that electronics exporters, most of which come from Asia, might be headed for a significant decline in earnings. The multilateral bank specifically cited the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia as countries to be badly hit by the demand slowdown.

The ADB projected that growth in electronics exports in 2005 would reach only 4 percent, which was much lower than the Philippine government's target of 10 percent.

RP remains keen on oil stockpiling option

By Abigail L. Ho

COGNIZANT of the vulnerability of world oil supply, the Philippines, together with its neighbors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), continued to keep the regional oil stockpiling option open for possible implementation in the medium term.

According to the Department of Energy's updated Philippine Energy Plan (PEP), the country remains an active participant in the Asean+3 (Asean, China, Korea and Japan) Oil Stockpiling Task Force.

"With the purview of this regional grouping, the DOE will pursue stockpiling as an option and consider the forging of regional cooperation along this endeavor with oil exporting countries," the PEP stated.

Maizar Rahman, acting secretary general of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), said his country, Indonesia, was also very supportive of the regional oil stockpiling proposal as this would help ensure supply security in the region.

However, the huge investments entailed in setting up a regional oil stockpile remained a deterrent.

"We're supporting this policy because it's for our security. It's good for us, it will ensure our supply. But the problem is still money," he said.

The regional oil stockpiling proposal was formulated during a meeting of energy ministers here in Manila last June in view of the increasing volatility of world oil supply and prices.

While no concrete steps have yet been taken to move this initiative forward, some Asean member-countries like the Philippines and Thailand have already expressed their intention to house the planned regional stockpile.

The state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. and Thailand's PTT Public Co. have expressed their intention to set up the Southeast Asia Petroleum Hub that will make the Philippines and Thailand the strategic locations for stockpiling and distribution.

IBM recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.

Santa's Gift Logistics Centre
SYSTEM OVERLOAD CRASH!

Restore lost data at the touch of a button. The holidays are around the corner and your PC's overloaded with "things to do" lists. Crash! Or perhaps the festive mood's made you let your guard down. And therefore vulnerable to virus attacks. Absolutely no problem when you have an IBM ThinkCentre desktop. Just press the blue button and a "toolkit" with system information, diagnostics and recovery options comes to rescue your saved data. Only an IBM ThinkCentre desktop lets you get help via the web even when your operating system's down. IBM ThinkCentre desktops with Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with HT Technology. This Christmas, go to work with a feeling of confidence.

How's that for joyous tidings?

Rescue and Recovery.
ThinkCentre

IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Feature
Intel® Celeron® Processor 2.53GHz
533 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
CD-ROM
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP40,550† Nav Code 8175LAB

IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Feature
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 2.8GHz
400 MHz FSB
Disk Operating System
128MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
CD-ROM, Ethernet LAN
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP38,695† Nav Code 81751QA

995 2426 | direct@ph.ibm.com
1 800 1888 1426 | ibm.com/ph/thinkholiday
Monday to Saturday 9am - 6pm and Sunday 9am - 3pm

Distinctive Innovation
Distinctive IBM Innovations:
IBM Rescue and Recovery™
- Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery

IBM ThinkCentre S50
Our smallest desktop
System Feature
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 530 with HT Technology
Processor speed 3.0 GHz
800 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
24x CD-ROM
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP53,500† Nav Code 80862BA

IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Feature
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 865G
Processor speed 2.8E
800 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
CD-ROM, Ethernet
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP51,150† Nav Code 8175PAM

IBM ThinkCentre A50
System Feature
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor
Processor speed 2.8GHz
400 MHz FSB
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB DDR PC2700
40GB hard drive
CD-ROM
3/1/1 parts, labor, on-site warranty
17" CRT Monitor
Express Price PhP47,995† Nav Code 817513A

IBM

IBM Partners: Advance Solutions, Inc. • ATP Peripherals Phils., Inc. • Axus International, Inc. • Columbia Technologies, Inc. • Eco I.T. Solutions Corporation • Information Products, Corp. • MG Business Systems, Inc. • Micro Image Company, Ltd. • Micro Pacific Technologies Co., Ltd. • Microbase, Inc. • Microcircuits Corporation • Microphase Enterprise Company • Northgate Technologies, Inc. • PC Craft Computer • Productivity Tech Services, Inc. • Questronix Corporation • Systems & Plan Integrator & Dev't Company • Valueline Systems & Solutions Corporation • Virtuality Information Technology Systems • Zenshin Systems Corporation
Blue Shop Value Partners: ABC Computers Co., Inc. • Accent Micro Products, Inc. • Electroworld Office Systems • Silicon Valley Computer Center • TCA-Tech Alliance • Villman Computer Systems, Inc.

JEANRICHARD

TV SCREEN CHRONOSCOPE
automatic movement | steel case | inner rotating bezel | sapphire glass | water-resistant 50 m

LUCERNE | Shangri-La Plaza Mall | Glorietta 4, Ayala Center | www.lucernejewelers.com

BIR regulation to bear down on retail trades

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has issued a revenue regulation that will tighten the reportorial requirements of retail businesses, in an effort to cut down cases of tax delinquency.

Under revenue regulation No. 11-2004, retail businesses each month are required to report to the BIR the amount of sales recorded in each of their cash register machines. The monthly reporting may be done either through electronic mail or short messaging service (SMS).

According to BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares, the monthly reporting of sales by retail firms is intended to enhance the BIR's database in aid of its auditing functions.

The monthly reporting of sales of retail firms is in addition to the regular submission of summary list of sales and purchases required of all payers of value-added tax (VAT). The summary list is used by the BIR in tracking taxpayers' claims of input VAT credits, and to ensure their accuracy.

The BIR said the revenue regulation will complement its third-party information auditing system, through which the BIR has been able to detect billions of pesos in tax delinquencies. The third-party information auditing system uses third-party data, such as the amount of purchases by client firms from a supplier, to check whether the sales declarations of the latter were accurate.

Aside from requiring retail firms to make a monthly reporting of sales, the new revenue regulation also shifts the way the BIR conducts its inspection of cash register machines.

"From the previous pre-auditing, we will now observe post-auditing of cash register machines," Henares said in a telephone interview.

The BIR official explained that previously, newly established retail firms had to wait for the BIR to visit the shops and check whether their cash register machines are tamper-proof, before they could get their permits to operate.

Now, retail firms may get their permits from the BIR, even prior to the inspection of their cash register machines, provided that the cash register machines were bought from accredited dealers.

Henares said that the BIR would inspect cash register machines a month after the business started operating.

"It's to revolutionize the way we register them," she said. "This will hasten the start-up operations of retail stores."

The BIR official said the revenue regulation was issued in response to complaints from newly established retail businesses that had to defer their operations because of delays in the BIR inspection.

RP economic state not as bad as it sounds, says UK envoy

IT DOES not take a Filipino to understand the peculiarities of the Philippine economy.

For British Ambassador to the Philippines Paul Dimond, all he needed was a two-year stay in the country, where the term "crisis" had become an everyday expression.

News has it that the Philippine economy is faced with the threats of a looming "power crisis" and a possible "fiscal crisis."

While the threats are valid, Dimond says that the country's economic situation is not as bad as it sounds.

Citing a gross domestic product growth boosted by strong personal consumption, and robust performance of the agriculture and services sectors, Dimond says the Philippines has what it takes to become economically abreast with its counterparts in the region.

'Fiscal problem'

"Technically, you don't have a fiscal crisis," he said during a roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER's business reporters and editors. "Your government is still able to pay its debts."

Dimond noted that the only reason President Macapagal-Arroyo announced a few months ago that the Philippines was in a crisis was to prompt Congress to take action on her legislative proposals.

The President's revenue enhancement measures are meant to address what can be more appropriately called a "fiscal problem."

But while the country may still be far from a fiscal crisis, Dimond says that the Filipino is in the grip of three other kinds of crisis: the crisis of confidence, legislation and corruption.

Dimond observes that Filipinos seem to underestimate their capabilities to collectively achieve the country's economic goals.

Confidence

"This is just a matter of having a national psychology to get things moving," the envoy said.

Dimond is urging Filipinos to work on their confidence, their resolve to build a vibrant economy, instead of getting used to the idea that crisis is a way of life in the Philippines.

He suggests that the government should exert more effort in developing sectors that have huge growth potentials, such as the legal and medical services, and mining.

On the crisis of legislation, Dimond says this has manifested itself clearly through the apparent difficulty of the executive branch to have its legislative proposals pass through Congress.

In realizing a country's economic targets, he says, unity among the branches of government is indispensable.

National interest first

Dimond describes as "admirable" the efforts of the Arroyo administration to inject health into the country's weak fiscal sector, by pushing for the legislation of measures that will raise revenues.

He says, however, that Congress has yet to show the same degree of eagerness in implementing the measures.

"Legislators should support their president," Dimond says. "Now is the best time for congressmen to show that they prioritize national interest first."

BRITISH Ambassador Paul Dimond looking cheery and sharp during the roundtable discussion with members of the PDI business staff. EUGENE ARANETA

He adds that the need to legislate the fiscal reform proposals, such as higher taxes and the rationalization of fiscal incentives, is immediate.

Foreign investors, he says, are closely watching how the Philippine government is acting on its fiscal problem, characterized by a huge budget deficit and ballooning debt.

On corruption, Dimond says this has been one of the biggest drag on the country's efforts to attract investments.

Corruption

He observes that corruption is not being sufficiently addressed in the Philippines because there are not many whistle-blowers out there willing to put their lives on the line.

"You need more people to have guts to help you in your anti-corruption efforts," he says.

Dimond says the Arroyo administration is moving toward the right direction when it solicited the help of anti-corruption experts from Hong Kong, led by Tony Manwal Kwok, in designing the Philippine government's anti-corruption program.

Dimond also has noted that the Philippines is losing in the competition of attracting more businesses because of the apparent lack of a unified government policy on investment promotion.

He lauds efforts of the Board of Investments to strengthen relations with foreign investors, but adds that the BOI should not be alone in doing the task.

All branches of government, he says, should support a policy that is encouraging to foreign investments.

Wrong signals

Dimond says the Philippines has been sending the wrong signals to foreign investors every time the judiciary issues a decision not favorable to business.

He cites the earlier decision of the Supreme Court, which ruled that opening the country's mining sector to foreign investments was unconstitutional.

He also mentions the initial opinion of the Department of Justice saying freight forwarding is subject to foreign ownership limits.

Dimond says the move of the Supreme Court and the DOJ, reversing their earlier decision and opinion, has helped prevent the Philippines' investment climate from further deteriorating.

"But the question is, 'why were these decisions made in the first place?'" he asks.

The British ambassador, citing the achievement of the United Kingdom in attracting foreign investments, says that it is necessary to keep government intervention in business operations to the minimum.

According to the ambassasdor, the investment policy adopted by the United Kingdom was the reason why it had attracted 40 percent of foreign direct investments in the whole of Europe.

"Businessmen do not want surprises," he says. "The most successful economies are those where businesses enjoy a stable regulatory environment, and where government is less and less relative." *Michelle V. Remo*

With ₱100-M budget, NFA props up sugar prices

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE NATIONAL Food Authority has been buying bags of sugar from local producers to prop up prices.

With a budget of P100 million, the NFA continues with its sugar-buying operations on orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo. The President wants the agency to continue its intervention in the sugar market to stabilize the price and supply of the commodity.

Ms Arroyo has issued Executive Order 386 authorizing the agency to purchase sugar for the crop year 2004-2005.

The NFA buys "C" or reserved sugar from planters associations and cooperatives at the price of P680 per Lkg based on the target per mill rate provided by the Sugar Regulatory Authority.

Tan said the NFA would procure consolidated "C" quedans from planters associations and cooperatives on a weekly basis until January 2005.

Sugar planters who are not members of any association or cooperative can request the SRA that quedans of their "C" sugar be consolidated with an associations or cooperative of their choice so that the NFA can procure their sugar.

Cooperatives that sold "C" sugar quedans to NFA would have the option to buy back their sugar from the NFA. In this scheme, the planters are allowed to repurchase the sugar within six months. But the planters would have to pay the NFA's carrying cost of 1 percent per month for the first three months, and 2 percent per month from the fourth to sixth month, on top of the NFA purchase price of P680 per 50 kilogram bag.

Shell acquires 600,000 barrels of oil from Russia

By Abigail L. Ho

CONTRIBUTING to the country's efforts to ease its dependence on oil from the Middle East, oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. recently sourced some 600,000 barrels of oil from Russia.

According to a report submitted to the Department of Energy, the company said the oil came from Sakhalin in Russia and was delivered to its refinery in Tabangao, Batangas, this month.

"We are very pleased that there is a continuing supply of crude oil coming from Russia," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said in a statement.

The country first imported crude from Russia last year, following a series of oil diplomacy meetings in 2002.

The first shipment of Russian Urals crude came from Novorissyck and was then sourced by refiner Caltex Philippines Inc. The 570,000 barrels of crude was delivered to Caltex's now defunct refinery in San Pascual, Batangas, in May last year.

In 2003, some 680,000 barrels of Pilipinas Shell's crude requirements also came from Russia.

Shipping Russian crude is relatively easier compared with Middle East crude. The shipping time from Russia is shorter and the route does not pass through choke points like the Straits of Hormuz and Malacca.

"The strong partnership we have built in the past is now bearing fruit," Perez said. "The DOE will continue to search for other non-traditional petroleum sources to ensure sufficient supply in the country."

The frequency of terrorist attacks in the Middle East prompted the country to diversify its crude sources. Instead of relying solely on the Middle East, local oil firms were encouraged to source their crude requirements from other places.

Mindanao's peace weavers

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

BUSINESS and investments will always seek areas where peace and order prevail.

Doing business in places where peace is unstable is a high-risk investment. And even mere perceptions of how peaceful an area is, will affect the level of investments and business activities.

This factor had put Mindanao, in the past, at a relative disadvantage vis-a-vis other investment destinations. We admit we have some peace and order problems in certain parts of our island. But the bigger problem is the perception of the world, that the whole Mindanao island is "in trouble."

This relative disadvantage, however, has made many peace advocates out of Mindanaoans. Peace has become a major advocacy of the government and non-government sectors, the religious groups, and the business community.

These "peace weavers," despite their sectoral diversity, all work toward one goal—the attainment of sustainable peace and development in the island.

Bishops Ulama Forum

The Bishops-Ulama Forum (BUF) is one of the most active and influential peace weavers in Mindanao.

It was organized in November 1996, bringing together religious leaders of Muslim and Christian communities from all over Mindanao. It includes members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Ulama League of the Philippines and Bishops of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines.

Ulama (plural of aleem) is the term for religious scholars (the equivalent of theologians) among the Muslims. Since Muslims do not have a hierarchy like that of the Catholic Church, the Ulama are the closest counterparts of bishops in terms of moral authority over their respective religious communities.

One of the most notable initiatives of the BUF is the annual celebration of the "Mindanao Week of Peace," which started in 1999. At that time, President Joseph Estrada issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 25 to Dec. 1 of each year as Mindanao Week of Peace.

In 2001, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a proclamation declaring every last Thursday of November to the first Wednesday of December as Mindanao Week of Peace. For Christians, this period includes the first Sunday of Advent, a special time of prayer. For Muslims, this may also coincide with the holy season of Ramadan.

Mindanao Week of Peace

This year's celebration focuses on the theme "A Reconciled Family: Agent of Reconciliation."

The Christian and Muslim leaders both agree that the family is the fundamental unit of society. Peace begins within the families; and the families will be the most effective agents of peace in the communities.

The leaders of the Bishops-Ulama Forum said many families—Muslims, Christians, Lumads—had been shattered to the core by all kinds of violent conflicts.

"We have been promoting social healing through reconciliation in many of our activities for the past years," the leaders said. "Genuine reconciliation, as taught by the Holy Bible and the Holy Qur'an, can only be achieved through sincere repentance and forgiveness."

There is no doubt that Islam and Christianity are one in the search for peace.

Among others, the annual week of peace aims to provide a venue for sharing different initiatives in the local level to broaden the gains of the peace process.

It also aims to build appreciation of religious diversity within a common cultural heritage as a basis for unity in peace advocacy, and heighten awareness and commitment of peoples and communities in their role as peace builders through their involvement in the various activities.

The leaders also recognize the importance of "popularizing" peace-building aspirations and activities through school activities, media campaign, forum, dialogue, exhibits, etc.

Also, through the peace initiatives, personal and communal commitment to peace are strengthened, in spite of the escalation of armed conflict and global violence, while consciousness of individuals and communities are raised regarding the plight of the internally displaced persons from the war-torn areas in Mindanao.

The leaders are also trying to study how they could respond to the people's material and spiritual needs.

The Peace Weavers

The BUF has held dialogue meetings on a quarterly basis in various cities of Mindanao. The religious leaders strive to provide the missing link in the peace process—i.e., the spiritual foundation for peace from both Christian and Muslim religious traditions. This may just be the solution to the "Mindanao problem."

"Despite the ups and downs of a protracted peace process, the Bishops-Ulama Forum has been able to send a steadfast message to all, whether peace doves or war hawks, that the higher Christian and Muslim leaders of Mindanao are for justice and peace," according to Antonio Ledesma in the 'Interreligious Dialogue for Peace.' "This ongoing experience affirms that, instead of being sources of conflict, authentic religious traditions can be harnessed as solid foundations for peace."

The peace weavers are all over Mindanao: from the business and industry sector that has consistently been doing its share in building sustainable communities by providing more opportunities for livelihood and employment; to the women and the mothers of the island who initiated the "Mothers for Peace" campaign which resulted to a better understanding of Mindanao's multi-culturalism on a nationwide basis.

There are also the youth and students who enthusiastically have been spreading this culture of peace.

We should all build on the gains made by the Bishops Ulama Forum and the other peace weavers to be able to proclaim in full confidence that peace is a way of life for us in Mindanao. Peace is indeed everybody's business!

MADAYAW NA PASKO SA INYONG LAHAT (A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL)!

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; member, Export Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Mabuhay Phils nominated for international awards

MABUHAY Satellite Corp (MSC), the country's only satellite owner and operator, was awarded a nomination for the Best Managed Satellite Operator of the Year Awards 2004 in the National Operator Category by Paris-based Euroconsult.

Euronconsult, with its 25 years of experience in the satellite sector in consulting services, is the world's primary reference for market and company assessment in the satellite sector.

Its consulting capabilities are based on a worldwide expertise of the satellite sector and unique research capabilities with the highest quality skilled satellite analysts, experts and consultants supported by an extensive information center and comprehensive proprietary databases on the satellite business.

MSC was nominated for The Best Take-Up Profile of a National Operator category, wherein national satellite operators around the globe were assessed for satellite utilization and financial performance.

MPSC president Gabriel Pimentel said this was the first time that such awards were held for satellite companies around the world.

"Being the only Philippines satellite operator, it is every heart-warming to know that our performance was benchmarked by a reputable international body, and was adjudged to be among the industry leaders for our category in 2003," he said.

Only three satellite companies out of the 34 fixed satellite service operators were nominated in the category.

The year 2003 "was the best year so far for Mabuhay and we had a good bottomline despite the very difficult environment prevailing in the industry. It was a result of persevering in maximizing what we can leverage out of our (satellite) footprint, and we are grateful to all our valued customers for their continued loyal support," said Pimentel.

Footprint refers to the coverage of a satellite. MSC's Agila II satellite has a footprint for its C band frequencies as far west as India and as far east as Hawaii, as far north as Mongolia and as far south as Indonesia, covering 20 countries. For its Ku-band, it covers China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Philippines.

Pimentel said part of the success was also due to the synergies within the PLDT Group and maximizing the use of the satellite transponders through technical support enhancements as well as offering more cost-effective rates for services.

Euroconsult said: "The awards were based on a cross analysis of financial, industrial and commercial ratios and is derived from the 2004 edition of The Comprehensive Benchmark of Leading Satellite Operators and the Corporate Profiles of the 34 Fixed Satellite Services Operators."

Euroconsult came up with the awards in partnership with Space News, the prime weekly newspaper for the global space community that provides news, insights and a common communications forum for the world's space industry. The awarding ceremonies were held in Paris, France, during the recent World Satellite Business Week.

PDI PHOTO/JELOY JOHNSON

THE ART OF LIBERATING SPACE

The Mondarian, is a low-density 22-storey residential condominium with a maximum of 9 units per floor. The Mondarian boasts of spacious and oversized units with individual terraces in every room. It is strategically located in prestigious Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, where some of the finest malls, schools, churches, hospitals and country clubs are within its immediate vicinity. The Mondarian is inspired by the works of Dutch painter Piet Mondarian, who exemplified the intelligent use of color and line to create images that call to mind vast spaces that seem to go beyond the confines of his canvass. And like a work of art it's namesake, The Mondarian offers you the freedom of liberating space. The Mondarian is a project of AMM Arden Property Development Corp and JRB Land Inc. Architectural design by Periquet Galicia Inc and landscape design by Jun Obrero. For more information call 807-0111. Shown are Luis Monserat, president of AAM Arden, Muntinlupa Mayor Fresnedi and Manuel Blanco, president of JRB during the launching and the unveiling of the first model units of the Mondarian residences at Alabang Muntinlupa.

PDIC DONATES P1M TO FLOOD VICTIMS

PDIC Executive Vice President Imelda S. Singzon (left) and VP-Finance Ma. Elena E. Bienvenida (right) turn over to Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Soliman (center) the donation of P1 million from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) for the relief and rehabilitation operations in the calamity-stricken Quezon and Aurora provinces. Also representing the PDIC were Phildiceo (rank and file organization) president Baldwin L. Sykimte and Officers Club president Alteo C. Malabuyoc. PDIC President and CEO Ricardo M. Tan has announced that the corporation will forego this year's Christmas activities and donate to the victims of the recent typhoons thru the DSWD. The PDIC officers and staff are also conducting a donation campaign in cooperation with ABS-CBN's Sagip Kapamilya.

Wholistic and sustainable feeding program completed

UNILEVER Philippines recently completed all the sites it targeted for the year to recover undernourished children in select districts in Manila. Dubbed as 'Pasiglahin ang Batang Pinoy,' the wholistic and sustainable feeding program not only focuses on giving food to the children, but also on other developmental needs, such as education, value formation, and achieving overall vitality in their lives.

Children from Barangay's 662, 825, 664 and 850 from District's 5 and 6 of Manila were the recipients of the project. Prior to the start of the program, the children were weighed, dewormed, and prepared to start keeping track of their health and weight progress. Mothers of the children were also enjoined to work together by preparing the meals from a prescribed list of nutritious menus for their children. All of the children were given one hot meal per day for 6 months.

To ensure the success of the program, Unilever partnered with multi-sectoral groups in this effort including Kabisig ng Kalahi, Manila Social Welfare and Development, Manila Health Department and Paco Health Center.

'Pasiglahin ang Batang Pinoy,' is an effort initiated by the Foods unit of Unilever Philippines in 2002. Formerly dubbed 'Project Pakainin,' the program aims to address the malnutrition problem in the country. It has successfully established four feeding modules in areas where Unilever operates namely, Paranaque, Las Piñas, Cavite and Paco. More than 120 undernourished children became beneficiaries of the program and garnered an 80 percent success rate in normalizing their nutritional levels.

The community program was actively participated in by Unilever employees under its volunteer program called InLUV or the Integrated League of Unilever Volunteers where they share their time and effort in initiating activities for the children and mothers during regular monthly visits.

ELSEVIER INAUGURATES 1ST PHILIPPINE OFFICE

Elsevier, the leading medical, scientific and technical publisher in the world inaugurates its first Philippine office at the RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Shown during the ribbon cutting ceremony are (from left): Tim Lum, sales director, Health Sciences; Effie Baoutis, regional director Excerpta Medica; and Stephen Troth, managing director for Health Sciences Asia. Elsevier is an integral partner with the scientific, technical and health communities, delivering superior information products and services that foster communications, building insights, and enable individual and collective advancement in scientific research and health care.

Berkley Int'l, LLC prexy visits Manila

FERNANDO Correa Urquiza, president of Berkley International, LLC, recently visited the company's Philippine operations which include Berkley Int'l Life, Berkley Int'l Plans and marketing pioneer Family First Inc. The short trip was timed to coincide with the company's 7th anniversary. It was marked with a cocktail party held in Urquiza's honor in which he conferred with senior managers and executives regarding expansion plans and new strategies. The aforementioned subsidiaries are fully-owned by Berkley Int'l, LLC which, in turn, is majority owned by W.R. Berkley Corp.

New AVP for Berkley, Family First

ALAN Rafe, president of Berkley International Plans Inc and pre-need marketing innovator Family First Inc, announced the appointment of Elsa Yu as assistant vice president for Human Resources. As HR head, Yu is expected to provide strategic directions in the areas of employee recruitment, welfare, benefits and over-all development to enable Berkley and Family First to become even more competitive in the market. On top of her responsibilities as HR head, Yu will concurrently be in charge of Policy Administration, Reception and Payroll. These duties are seen to complement her HR role and provide a means to consolidate further the strengths of the two companies.

VIRTUAL BUSINESS LEAGUE ON ANC 21

Virtual Business League (VBL) organizers were recently interviewed on ANC 21 regarding its ongoing project. ANC host Dan Andrew discussed the mechanics with (from left) Mikel Garcia, youth spokesperson, Ateneo de Manila University; Worker Joseph Casalme, VBL project director; and Dr. Ben Teehankee, president, Philippine eLearning Society (PeLS); VBL is the Philippines' first and biggest interscholastic virtual gaming competition organized by the Philippine Electronic and Telecommunications Federation (Petef) Foundation. It will be participated in by major colleges and universities in Luzon and Davao. Tournament schedules are as follows: Semi-finals – Jan. 29; Finals – Feb. 12. For more information visit: www.petef.org.ph or contact Petef Foundation at the following tel. nos. 813-6398/759-3870; Fax - 813-6397; email – contactus@petef.org.ph.

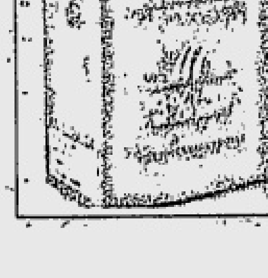
ProductFiles

Cuckoo Bag from Oishi

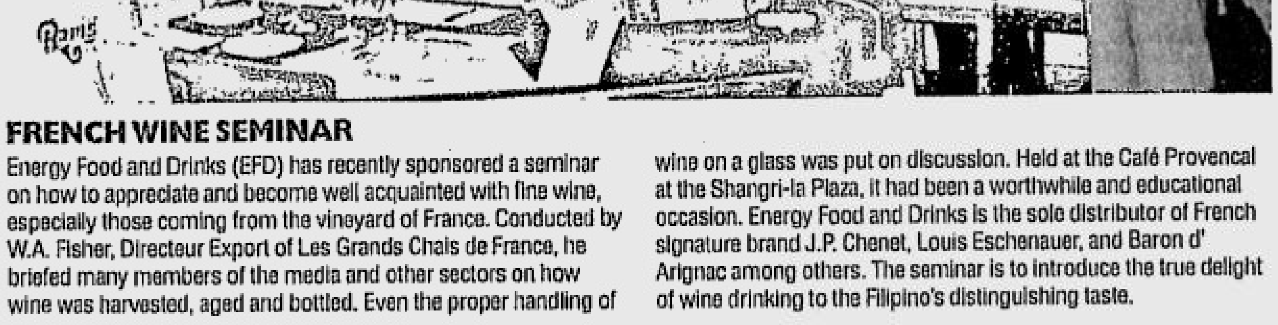
Oishi
CuckooBag

THE POPULAR give away this Christmas season is the new Cuckoo Bag from snack brand Oishi. Your favorite goodies in a Christmas-red bag with an amazing low price (about P80 only). And when you're done snacking, there's something to keep-inside each bag is a fun and functional Cuckoo Bird bath accessory. Be it a soap dispenser, a toothbrush holder, or a bath lily, you've got Cuckoo Bird sharing bathroom time with you. Now available at all Metro Manila branches of Robinson's Supermarkets, Puregold Price Club, Watson's, Waltermart, South Supermarket, SM Supermarkets, among others. Hurry while supply lasts.

Minoxidil Regroe now available over-the-counter



FOR the 87 percent of the population that at sometime or another suffers from falling or thinning hair, there is an easy-to-use, safe, effective and dermatologically-tested topical product for the prevention and treatment of hair loss. This product is Minoxidil Regroe, and it's now available over-the-counter. Previously available as a prescription product, Minoxidil Regroe is the only brand for hair growth recognized for its efficacy in stimulating growth at the cellular level, in the hair root. Minoxidil Regroe is one of the most effective, safest and proven topical treatments for Androgenetic Alopecia, a hereditary type of baldness that is the most common form of hair loss. Minoxidil appears to work by enlarging hair follicles. It appears to extend the growth phase of hair, giving it the opportunity to reach a longer length before falling out. With the regular and continuous use of Minoxidil Regroe, hair can grow from three centimeters or more in length within a period of six to twelve months. Minoxidil Regroe is now available over-the-counter in leading drugstores nationwide.



FRENCH WINE SEMINAR

Energy Food and Drinks (EFD) has recently sponsored a seminar on how to appreciate and become well acquainted with fine wine, especially those coming from the vineyard of France. Conducted by W.A. Fisher, Directeur Export of Les Grands Chais de France, he briefed many members of the media and other sectors on how wine was harvested, aged and bottled. Even the proper handling of wine on a glass was put on discussion. Held at the Café Provencal at the Shangri-la Plaza, it had been a worthwhile and educational occasion. Energy Food and Drinks is the sole distributor of French signature brand J.P. Chenet, Louis Eschenauer, and Baron d' Arignac among others. The seminar is to introduce the true delight of wine drinking to the Filipino's distinguishing taste.

B6

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872154 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2004

RATES
P245 per column centimeter P75 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays Sundays
12:00 noon 12:00 noon
Day before publication every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

AKHIN THAI MASGE
Tel #8347357

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR
(0921)5364794

ASK JOHN MALE MASSEURS
(0921)5364794

H'SOME ATHLETES 8327363

MALE MASSAGE
PINK
374-8480

MASSAGE 8545348 WARREN

MR. UNIVERSE SPA
Tel. No. 410-1259

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

MSGE M-F 09192714842 ANJO

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

REFLEXOLOGY

Facial / Massage Ofc 534-4003

BODYLAX 4144488

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

I-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LIGHT 5268216 / 5301315

MISCELLANEOUS

AIRCON SERVICES 09192963311

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

GOOD MAID / YAYA / BOY 7572089

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8503

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

SAN JUAN

LA 141m² N. Domingo 38M OBO 7259692 7001807 09264100000

COMML/RESDL

MUNTINLUPA

ALABANG HILLS Don Manolo Blvd.Vacant 800sqm P8M Front San Beda-Alabang College Nr New Life Center Tels. 818-2781/751-5472 Cell: 0919-6745430

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

Mkti Villages Best Buy! Investment 09189392979

SHANG GRAND/SERENDRA
Pre Selling 0918-9392979

MANILA

NEAR LA SALLE Bnew Twnhse /4sty/3br/3tb/mds rm 1-2cr grge /deck P3.410M up 8903461

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES
as low as P700T
Min. 15% D/P
15% 2nd REM
70% Balance thru In-House convertible to "Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
BACOOR only 10 mins from Baclaran!
as low as
P4,100/mo*
* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
Mandaluyong Sales Ofc.
531-0395 * 531-1384
(0920) RSG HOME
(0920) 910 0000
Toll Free: 1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.gueven.com
other sites available
Cainta, Baguio, QC

MANDALUYONG

LUXURY MANSION, 4-Sty 5BR w/ T&B FA 460m². Ideal for Balikbayans Penthouse / Golf Course View ED T-7210841 / 7248874

PARANAQUE

BAYVIEW VILL. PARANAQUE
2-sty LA-553m² P7.97M
MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE
3-sty LA-417m² P7.29M
10%DP Bal 10yrs @ 11% Fxd
(0920)922-2495, 8682414

RIZAL

CrownAsia Hse & Lot 2-4br 2tb Pckges 1M-Up 20%Down 12mos. to Pay We Give Financial Approval Thru Bank / In-Hse / Pag-ibig Call 697-1443 • 0917-8504163 www.winninghomesrealty.com

BULACAN

GROTTO AREA 225T 9390299

Near Grotto 650T 9372688

LAGUNA

BINAN RFO 400T 5201792

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

D. GARDENS RFO 09192189817

PASIG

1.6M ORTIGAS AVE. RESORT-TYPE, 1st Class 2-4BR P13T/ mo. or NoDP or 0% Bess • 0917-5234223

SAN JUAN

'1BR 69.25m² 2TB 2M 412-1825'

TAGUIG

PACIFIC TWR 23m² Rush! w/income embasy 09189392979

LOT

KALOOCAN

420m² P1.2M BALUBAD ST NOVALICHES 802-2912

RIZAL

RICHMOND nr Ortigas Ext COMML 200m² Ph1 P6T/m² RESD'L 164m² P5T/m² w/view RUSH 9338423 / 6356003

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

MAKATI CONDO OFC RENTSALE 09189392979

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2br U/D Strong H²O P8.5K Pls Call 757-7442

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

2BR 1CR P7T @ 415-0311

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Cubao fabshp 500m² 7257342

ROOM & BOARD

Chin Gen Area 7836781

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P200! Sucat Pque 8275345

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 7257342

BUSINESS RENTAL

Dental Clinic For Sale/Lease Rm224 Atrium Bldg Makati •811-4071/823-6047•

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

Kapitolyo 5br 4tb 60T or 17M 0919-3220871 • 5344003

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKERS CEP 4382966

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

00 Accord VTi a/t 565T 4267915

MITSUBISHI

02 Adv SS M/T 545T 4361294

'90 GALANT SS 120T neg RUSH 8022912;09162318192

NISSAN

'97 Cefiro A/T 320T 9254566

TOYOTA

01 GLI 1.6 A/T 390T 9254566

TOYOTA REVO SR '99 Well-maintained, 58K rdg Call cell# 0918-9198870

---

(1) Office/Residential Condo Unit for Sale (3.1M)

4th & 5th Flrs. w/ Attic,
U-4/5-3 Sunshine Cond.
9633 Kamagong St., SA Village,
Makati City
Floor area of 111.60 square meters
For Inquiries contact:
Rey Jaucian - 8940012-13
Mobile No. 09193580236/
E-mail: rjaucian@pana.com.ph
Brokers are Welcome!

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JESUS LAYCO MOINA, JR.

Last known address.
Asian Development Bank
Office of Information
Systems & Technology
6 ADB Avenue
Mandaluyong City

Pending **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by the Metropolitan Trial Court of Parañaque for multiple violations of B.P. 22

Please call

Atty. G. Geronimo-Javier
840-1350 or 892-6115
for information
leading to arrest

(PDI-Dec 28, 2004)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Sunflower Transport Hi-Ace Coaster 0919-3220871 • 5344003

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CARS•VANS•BRDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

CARS VANS 4X4 COSTR BUS AUTOMATIC/MANUAL TRANS 8908667 8908668 8908669

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

VAN 4 HIRE 9298376

ABC RENT A CAR
NEW CARS & VANS
PAJERO • HI-ACE
REVO • VIOS • ALTIS • STAREX
CRLA • CRV • LYNX • 536-8822
303-9789 • 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CAR LOAN 534-4441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 5315577

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE AND COMPLIANCE PLAN TO THE PHILIPPINE GRID CODE AND THE PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTION CODE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF R.A. 9136

CAMARINES SUR II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CASURECO II),
ERC CASE NO. 2003-266
x---x

ORDER

Due to the recent pronouncement by the Government declaring **November 29, 2004** as a non-working holiday, the hearing of the instant application previously scheduled on even date is hereby cancelled and reset to **January 18, 2005** at two o'clock **(2:00 p.m.)** in the afternoon at the same venue.

Accordingly, CASURECO II is hereby directed to cause the publication of the *Notice of Public Hearing* dated October 26, 2004 indicating therein the new date of hearing at its own expense, once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at least five (5) days before the date of the scheduled initial hearing. It is further directed to inform the consumers within its franchise area by any other means available of the filing of the instant application.

SO ORDERED.

Pasig City, November 25, 2004.

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY
OF THE COMMISSION:

(Sgd.) **FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.**
Executive Director III

(PDI - Dec. 28, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Regional Trial Court of Batangas
Fourth Judicial Region
Branch 13, Lipa City

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL REGISTRAR OF CUENCA, BATANGAS.

GREGORIA R. LARCIA-GONZALES
Petitioner,
- versus -
SP. PROC NO. 2004-0656
THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF CUENCA, BATANGAS,
Respondent
x---------------------------------------x

ORDER

Before this Court is a verified petition for correction of entry in the Certificate of Live Birth of herein petitioner, Gregoria R. Larcia-Gonzales, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, an Order be issued directing the Municipal Civil Registrar of Cuenca, Batangas to make the necessary correction in her birth certificate as regards the entry of her Date of Birth from September 8, 1950 to May 9, 1950.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be set for hearing on January 20, 2005 at 8:30 A.M., at which date and time any interested person may appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

The Branch Clerk of Court is directed to furnish the Office of the Clerk of Court with a copy of this Order for publication once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Batangas at petitioner's expense.

Let copies of this Order and the Petition be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General and the City Prosecutor of Lipa. Likewise, let copies of this Order be sent to the Municipal Civil Registrar, Cuenca, Batangas, petitioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

Lipa City, 30 November 2004.

(Sgd.) JANE AURORA C. LANTION
Judge

(PDI—Dec. 21, 28, 2004 & Jan. 4, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MARIO BALABAT BELEN

Last known address:
Asian Development Bank
Office of Information
Systems & Technology
6 ADB Avenue
Mandaluyong City

Pending **"ALIAS" WARRANTS OF ARREST** issued by the Metropolitan Trial Court of Parañaque for multiple violations of B.P. 22 (5 counts)

Please call

Atty. G. Geronimo-Javier
840-1350 or 892-6115
for information
leading to arrest

(PDI-Dec 28, 2004)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Security Agency & Cosmetic Surgery / Derma Clinic 0919-3220871 • 5344003

earnextranow.com code: alb2004 8531008 09178901851

Frm Asia to North America, including US, Canada, China & India. L88 is positioned to help you develop & expand a global biz. Log-on www.L88edc.com

RTW Consign 09167940002

Republic of the Philippines
Province of La Union
Municipality of Bacnotan
Office of the Mayor
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors, registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	:	Planning and Design of Bacnotan Public Market and Construction of Two (2) Storey Commercial Building (Phase 1)
Location	:	Bacnotan, La Union
Brief of Description	:	Planning and Design of the whole lot area of 10,349.30 sq.m. which includes proposed Wet and Dry Market Building, Commercial Building, Parking Areas and Access Roads and Construction of Two (2) Storey Commercial Building (Phase 1)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	P 28,000,000.00 (Phase 1)
Source of Fund	:	Loan from Philippine National Bank
Contract Duration	:	300 calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance, Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRP).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	January 11, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	January 12-14, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	January 25, 2005
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	February 2, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	February 3, 2005
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	February 16, 2005
7.	Receipt of Opening of Bids	February 28, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Office of the BAC Secretariat, Bacnotan, La Union, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 to the Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union Cashier.

The Municipality of Bacnotan, La Union assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

CONTACT PERSON:

ERICA L. DE CASTRO
Bacnotan, La Union
09274270237

Approved by:
(Sgd.) ENGR. ZALDY D. ALMOITE
BAC Chairman
09164764952

(PDI – December 20 & 28, 2004)

GIA®

Thailand Campus

Learn the principles of quality Jewelry Design from the world's #1 gemological institute

Jewelry Design Class

Step-by-Step, develop skills needed to create and illustrate designs for a variety of jewelry in full color and fine detail

NO artistic training or experience required

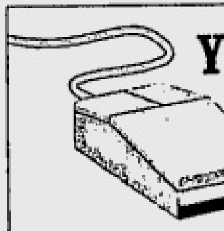
Jewelry Design Class starts March 21, 2005

GIA Thailand Campus

Bisco Tower-12th Flr., 56/12 Sub Rd., Bangrak, Bangkok Thailand
Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77 Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc.th.com www.giathailand.com

'Parada ng mga Sikat at Hubad'

EVEN in this most crisis time Filipinos are still able to celebrate Christmas. In the next episode of Up Close and Personal with Marissa Del Mar which is entitled "Parada ng mga Sikat at Hubad" will feature one of the respected names in the movie industry and Mowelfund administrator, no other than Boots Anson Roa. The show will also feature the yearly and most known event of the University of the Philippines, the Oblation Run and find out their sentiments on holding such event... and also capping the end of classes at the UP Diliman is the much-awaited UP Lantern Parade- participants will display their colorful floats, lanterns and costumed performance in the annual parade which begun in 1934 and which continues today whether there is crisis or no crisis! The show is hosted by Marissa Del Mar, at 11 p.m. every Tuesdays at IBC 13



Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at ww.jobmarketonline.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8970425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 522-4406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
Mortuary and Crematory
*The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

Ferminia L. Asis

of Piddig, Ilocos Norte and Kamuning, Quezon City

Peacefully joined her Creator
on December 27, 2004 at the age of 88.

Her loving son **Dr. Redentor** and daughter-in-law, **Dra. Asuncion Redoña**; sisters **Teofila** and **Magdalena** (†) and relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 30, 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and will be laid to rest at La Loma Catholic Cemetery, Caloocan City.

"...absent
from
the body
to be
present
with the
Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

DIONISIO S. TOLENTINO, JR.

Regional Executive Director
DENR Region IV-B MIMAROPA

Born on July 29, 1952
Peacefully joined our Creator on December 25, 2004.

He is survived by his loving brothers and sisters.
His remains lie in state at St. Andrew Chapel,
Holy Trinity Funeral Homes, Dr. A Santos Avenue,
Sucat Road, Sucat, Paranaque City
and will be transferred to Sta. Barbara,
Iloilo on December 30, 2004.

Interment will be on January 15, 2005.

Please omit flowers.

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be."
John 12:16

I am the Resurrection and the Life
He who believes in Me shall have eternal life.

Alfred B. Deen

(Freddie)
died in the grace of the Lord
on December 23, 2004.

He is survived by his loving wife **Maureen**; father **Atty. Nicolas R. Deen**; mother **Edith B. Deen**; brothers **Spike, Timmy, Xandy** and **Perry**; sister **Candy**; Uncles and Aunts who sorely miss him.

Freddie's ashes remains in the White Plains Chapel, Nathan Road., Quezon City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

• LAS PIÑAS
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

• MAKATI
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

• MALABON
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

• MANDALUYONG
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

• MANILA
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2627
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila, Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0839
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE & MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tels. 493-4458, 493-4540
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tel. 302-5447

• MARIKINA
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
28 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City;
Tels. 942-0044, 475-1177
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City
Tels. 646-1725 or 646-1730
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

• PARAÑAQUE
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1209, 825-1291, Telefax 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque,
Tels. 820-1552, 825-9947, 825-8635
LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor. Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376, 826-9082, (0915) 712-1220

• PASAY
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1801; 845-4830

• PASIG
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8509, 747-8509 • Telefax 641-1700
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7009, 641-1735

• QUEZON CITY
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City, Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9208/87

• TAGUIG-PATEROS
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3802
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-8181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL

• ALBAY
LIGÑON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Bugtong Road, Legaspi City; Tels. (052) 820-0186; 0917-2074152

• BACOLOD
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132

• BAGUIO
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City; Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

• BATAAN
SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan, Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911786

• BULACAN
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0286, (0917) 895-0603

• CAVITE
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite,
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1976

• CEBU
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3102
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2001

• DAVAO
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

• ILOCOS
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Tel. 722-2730,
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145

• LAGUNA
SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Dila, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5052; 531-4142. Fax (049) 531-4989
ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio, San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1688, 800-2914 Cel. No. (0917) 5016963

• PAMPANGA
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2059; (045) 322-5247

• RIZAL
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Cangma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782; 697-0020; 650-7426; Fax: 697-2704
F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Gulmang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal, Tels. 049-5049; 942-4460
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711, 651-0-37
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 646-1655

• ZAMBALES
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 611-1080, (047) 222-4912; (047) 224-2014
OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan, Sta. Rita, Olongapo;
Tel. No. (047) 223-1692

Psalm 62.1 "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him come my salvation."

ENGR. MARCIAL O. MANALAYSAY

"MARS/MOM"
of Bacoor, Malabon, Davao City & Parañaque

Peacefully joined the Lord, the Giver of Life
& his wife, Angelina Tablante Manalaysay
on December 26, 2004 at the age of 82.

He was an outstanding graduate of Torres High School Class '40 & of The Mapua Institute of Technology class '48. He was a dedicated & honest public servant, a loyal & good friend, a gentle & loving father, an adoring grandfather & a gift to all those who knew him.

His sister, Rosing & husband Ano; children: Mike & Pat, Raffy & Jojie, Bebot & Tim, Rachel & Pol; grandchildren: Trisha, Keem, Mikee, Rj, John, Josh, Jonathan, Alex, Paolo, Jomari, Angela, Raffy & Jason; his niece Marilyn, & other relatives, request everyone to join them in prayers for his eternal salvation.

His body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be announced at a later date.

"Everyone of us have no definite time on earth since we have only borrowed lives." (Mars)

**8259949 – 52 (Bonifacio Chapel)*

Sec. Michael T. Defensor
with the Officials and Employees of the
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
mourns the passing of

DIR. DIONISIO S. TOLENTINO, JR.

of Region IV-B last December 25, 2004.

We express our heartfelt condolences
to his family and offer our prayers for the eternal repose
of his immortal soul.

His remains lie in state at the
Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque City.

With fondest memories of his simple life, his sincere service to his fellowmen and genuine concern for the spiritual upliftment of the poor, and with the deepest sense of loss

The Stockholders, Officers, Employees & Staff of:
The Good Samaritan Colleges, Inc.
Nueva Ecija Good Samaritan General Hospital, Inc.
Cabanatuan City

Mourn the passing of

DR. LEONIDES "LEDO" SORIANO Y TRAJANO

(03 August 1942 – 25 December 2004)

Chairman of the Board, The Good Samaritan Colleges, Inc.
Chairman of ExeCom & Medical Director, Nueva Ecija Good Samaritan General Hospital, Inc.
Member, Board of Directors, N.E. Eye & Laser Center

Survived by his wife **Marita Ocampo**; children **Michael & Cherry Nuñez, Jing, Anna Meliza & Belmar Batallang**; grandchildren **Kerstin Joy, Kassandra Sophia** and **Brent**; sisters **Bing T. Custodio & Didi T. Custodio** and brother **Danilo T. Custodio**.

His remains lie in state at Divine Mercy Chapel, Ma. Theresa Subd., Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be at the Cabanatuan City Cemetery on 30 December 2004 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Nicholas Cathedral, Cabanatuan City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of

EDUARDO T. AMPARO

who passed away
on December 22, 2004

wish to express our deepest
gratitude to all of you who
offered prayers, sent flowers
and spiritual offerings.

Engr. Alexander O. Olivar

of La Union and Marikina City

was called by our Lord on December 25, 2004.

His loving wife **ALMA**; children **Aldrich, Allyne** and **Gerard, Aletha** and **Norman, Allan** and **Bunnie**; grandchildren **Chia, Bibsee, MJ, Kristian, Yama, CJ, Toki, Joseph, K-Liz**; brothers and sisters **Eva, Dan,** and **Daisy, Butch** and **Julie, Yollie** and **Ruben, Winston** and **Eillyne, Bong** and **Racquel, Bing**; nephews, nieces and other relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Funeraria Paz, Q.C.

On January 2, 2005, after the 7:30 a.m. Mass, he shall be interred at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quezon City.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Putting happiness and hope in Christmas

JOLLIBEE has a way of putting happiness and hope in our Christmases. Apart from its long-running Christmas initiative of "MaAga ang Pasko sa Jollibee", Jollibee Foods Corp, composed of Jollibee, Chowking, Delifrance and Greenwich, recently made a splendid move of helping the victims of the recent series of typhoons, floods and landslides.

JFC collaborated with the Department of Social Welfare and Development in providing help to calamity victims. DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman was grateful to the assistance extended by the all-Filipino company. "Jollibee's donation of P10 million will go a long, long way. We are thinking of using the 20 percent to provide relief to communities who lost their belongings and livelihood to the raging typhoons. We will channel the remaining amount for rehabilitation and restoration of areas afflicted by the natural disaster," Sec. Soliman announced.

Apart from the corporate donation, Jollibee employees also collected goods to give to the families in Quezon. "It was the initiative of the stores and the employees to gather relief items to give to the typhoon victims. We are extremely happy that they want to do their share in this time of need," says Tim Guiza, executive director, Jollibee Foundation.

The company's help did not only extend to the victims but also to the volunteers who are helping in the repacking of the relief goods. "Volunteers give their time and effort in making sure that our kababayans in Quezon will receive the basic needs. We feel that in a way, we have to provide them food to encourage them in doing this noble deed. It's really heartwarming to feel that bayanihan is still present in our midst," says Carol Estacio, Jollibee marketing manager.

Christmas has also become more meaningful to Jollibee's business partners as it donated Jollibee Kids Meal toys to children of Quezon in behalf of its partners.

"True to our mission of spreading happiness to our fellowmen, Jollibee is doing whatever it can in sharing the joys of Christmas to those who need it the most-less-fortunate children, victims of natural calamities and people who long for care and love. We hope that through our humble actions, we are able to bring the spirit of Christmas alive in the hearts of each Filipino," says Jollibee VP for Corporate HR, JV Tence.

That's the symbol of the red, smiling bee that fills our cityscape-joy, hope and love for our country and for our fellowmen.

IT'S a collaboration of Jollibee and government agencies. In photo are Maritess Maristela, Division Chief of the External Assistance Division, Policy Plans Bureau of DSWD; DSWD Asst. Secretary Rhoda Yap; JFC VP for Corporate HR JV Tence; Jollibee Foundation executive director Tim Guiza; Jollibee marketing manager Carol Estacio; Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, OJ7 of the AFP.

COCOLIFE INAUGURATES LEGASPI BRANCH

Cocolife Legaspi Branch recently relocated its branch site at the heart of Albay District's bustling commercial area. The inauguration was attended by the Legaspi Branch sales force and top marketing officers from the head office. The blessing ceremony was led by (in photo) the new head of individual marketing Elmo Nobleza (right), marketing support head Jerry Miraflor (right), and Legaspi branch manager Marc Soliman (center).

Early chemo improves brain cancer survival

A MAJOR international study proved that early low-dose chemotherapy improves the longevity of brain cancer patients, specifically those who suffer the most aggressive and common form known as glioblastoma multiforme.

Results of the study released recently in New Orleans showed that giving low doses of temozolomide at the very start, for six or seven weeks during and after radiation, increases the chance of the patient to be alive two or three years later. This is considered a major progress in terms of cancer survival. Temozolomide has typically been used only after radiation to shrink the tumor.

The study, conducted and financed by the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer, was done in more than 80 hospitals in Europe, Canada and Australia. Dr. Gregory Cairncross, one of the study's primary investigators and head of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Calgary in Alberta, was responsible for coordinating the Canadian component of the trial on behalf of the National Cancer Institute or Canada Clinical Trials Group, which was funded by the Canadian Cancer Society.

Five- hundred- seventy- three patients who participated in the trial were randomly given standard treatment with or without early temozolomide.

After two years, 26 percent receiving the drug were still alive, compared with just 10 percent getting the usual care. Although the treatment did not prevent some patients from dying quickly, doctors said doubling short-term survival is still a very important milestone for both the doctors and the patients.

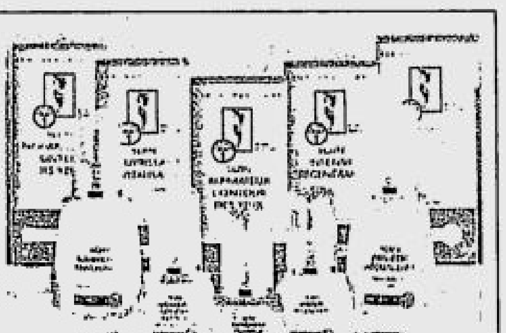
According to the study's director Dr. Roger Stupp of University Hospital in Switzerland, patients found the drug easy to take, and fatigue was the most common ill effect.

"This is the first trial that has been clearly positive in brain cancer in 30 years", said Doctor M.J. Van den Bent of the Daniel den Hoed Oncology Center in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Glioblastomas greatly differs with other kinds of cancer since it grows quickly inside the head, destroying everything in their path. They are the most aggressive of the 100 or so forms of cancer that originate in the brain and they account for half or more of all cases. Around the world, 175,000 cases are diagnosed annually, killing 125,000.

ProductFiles

Biorica: The beauty breakthrough from the beast



THE NEWEST breakthrough in beauty and skin care is now in the Philippines. Celebrated in Europe for its efficacy, the French brand Biorica is the only skin care to use the extracts of the Hirudo Medicinalis or HM, the medicinal leech, as its unique main ingredient. The salivary extract of this particular type of leech contains some of the very valuable enzymes.

Hirudin, the world's most powerful anticoagulant contained in the medicinal leeches' saliva, promotes effective micro-circulation and enhances the activity of the products' other ingredients such as organic olive oil, shea butter, marine collagen, elastin, grapeseeds among others transporting them deep into the epidermis and working beyond the skin surface. Another enzyme present in the Hirudo Medicinalis' saliva is Eglin, which exerts a strong anti-radical and anti-oxidant action directly on skin cells and effectively combats accumulation of free radicals which are responsible for skin aging.

The Biorica line has products that specifically answer different skin care needs like to name a few -- the Face Care range which consists of products that tone and moisturize the skin aside from correcting blemishes, the Teenage Well-being care under the Specific Care line for those who want to get rid of acne or pimples which has also been effective for adults as well and the Cleansing line and Body Care range. These products contain HM1, a regular concentration of the salivary extract of the Hirudo Medicinalis as its main ingredient.

Contrary to the negative impression some people may have about leeches, the Hirudo Medicinalis has been known for medical applications for centuries now due to its therapeutic virtues and is presently used throughout the world as a tool in skin grafts, plastic and reconstructive surgery. Further dispelling common belief that leeches are no more than a bloodsucking species, the recent approval of US FDA on the use of leeches for medicinal purposes paved the way to develop various pharmaceutical and cosmetic products. This assures consumers that Biorica products enhance beauty effectively and are also highly safe to use. Thus, creating beauty form what is commonly considered a beast.

The Biorica line of products is now available at Essences- Rustan's Makati and is soon to be available at the newly opened Essences - Rustan's Shangri-La Tower.

MERALCO GIVES CHRISTMAS JOY

The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) recently conducted a Christmas outreach program to the students of San Francisco Elementary School in Barangay San Juan, Cainta. The school, comprised of 1,314 students, received from Meralco a number of educational materials and equipment that will help facilitate the students' learning. Shown in photo are Meralco chair and CEO Manuel Lopez (middle), Cainta Mayor Mon Ilagan (left) and Meralco vice president for corporate communication Elpi Cuna (right) distributing loot bags and meals to the students. Meralco has been known for its corporate social responsibility initiatives. The interaction and sharing that marked the event signified that the Christmas spirit is still very much alive despite recent misfortunes that have struck the nation. The outreach is only one of the many outreach programs to be conducted by the other offices in Meralco.

KOHIKAN OPENS 550TH SHOP IN THE PHILIPPINES

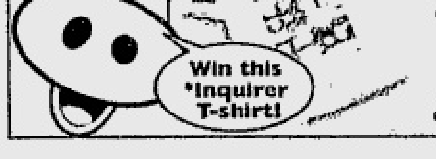
Kohikan, the first ever Japanese coffee shop in the country, recently had its grand opening at the Promenade, Greenhills Shopping Center. The event was graced by San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito and Masashi Watanabe, general manager of Kohikan Japan as guests of honor. Photo shows the ribbon cutting with (from left) Masashi Watanabe, Mayor JV Ejercito and Bryan Tiu - president of Kohikan Philippines.

Cocoplans relocates its Baguio Business Center

TRUE to its commitment of bringing outstanding service closer to its planholders, Cocoplans, the pre-need company of the UCPB group relocated its Baguio City business center last Oct. 13. Baguio Business Center has 33 business associates and two office personnel. The relocation of this business center is part of Cocoplans' continuing efforts to empower its customer service. Just recently, the company was awarded by no less than the Consumers Union of the Philippines as the Most Outstanding Pre-Need Plans Provider for 2004. According to Cocoplans president, Caesar T. Michelena, "The continuing effort of Cocoplans to provide more accessible business centers to its planholders is a commitment that we have always promised to keep. We value our planholders and we take essential measures to make their transactions with us easier and more efficient." The new Baguio Business Center is located at Suite 605 6/F National Life Building, Session Road, Baguio City with telephone numbers (074) 444-8384 to 85.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES AND HOLIDAY TREATS

Christmas celebration started early as the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center presented 'Christmas Memories and Holiday Treats', a fun and festive free cooking demonstration with one of the country's well-respected culinary expert, Sylvia Reynoso-Gala. More than 500 attendees enjoyed learning sensationally delicious Noche Buena recipes and were also treated to a heart-warming musical and dance presentation by the Children's Joy Foundation. To add thrill and excitement, Magnolia Gold Butter, Purefoods-Hormel, Monterey, Magnolia Chicken and sponsors Tefal, Glad Wraps, Ariston, and GE Appliances raffled off prizes to lucky participants. To know more about their exciting events and mouth-watering recipes, visit the website at www.mygreatfood.com or send a self-addressed stamped envelope to San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center, Legaspi corner eagle Streets, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City.


Win this *Inquirer T-shirt!

InqBox

Question of the Week

What are your hopes and dreams for your family this Christmas and the New Year?

Senders of d first 10 texts publishd in Tuesday's **InqBox** *wil each receiv an "Inquirer T-shirt!!*

[illegible] **inquirer news name/city/message.**

[illegible]

(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Chay at 8978808 loc. 218. Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Inquirer
menu

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Manigong Bagong Taon!!
mula sa
NIKON®
HOME APPLIANCES

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◉ TUESDAY FITNESS ◉ WED… DAY FOOD ◉ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Better than tying a string 'round your finger

By Linda B. Bolido

DO you have trouble remembering your New Year's resolutions?

Unless you are suffering from self-induced short-term amnesia, deliberately trying to forget, "The Memory Prescription" may be able to help you remember your New Year's resolutions and a few other things besides. The book offers Dr. Gary Small's 14-day plan to keep your brain and body young. Small, who wrote the book with Gigi Vorgon, is director of the University of California Los Angeles Center on Aging.

Basically, the book says the things that are supposed to keep you physically fit are the same things that will help keep your mind sharp and alert no matter how old you are.

Stress reduction, healthy diet and physical activity constitute the mantra almost every modern person has to repeat to survive today's highly charged life. To this, Small adds mental activity. Just as physical activity will keep your body running smoothly, constant mental exercise will keep your brain performing at peak level, or as close to it for as long as possible.

Gentle on the body, brain

Small's memory prescription packages these four components into a 14-day schedule. And before you start hyperventilating from worry that you will have to do some difficult physical and mental aerobics, even acrobatics, Small's prescription is rather gentle on the body and the brain.

Day one, for example, begins with wake-up stretch and conditioning. This does not mean jumping out of bed and doing sit-ups or pushups right away. Instead, Small eases you into your daily routine with a gentle combination of knee-bends, deep breathing, arm-raising, etc.

Needless to say, the diet is full of fruits, vegetables, non-fat or low-fat items with vitamin and mineral supplements thrown in. "The plan's healthy brain and body diet includes a nutritious balance of proteins and carbohydrates, as well as adequate quantities of foods rich in antioxidants (substances that fight disease-causing oxygen free radicals) and omega-3 fats (derived mainly from fish)," Small says.

Memory tests

As for the mental exercise, how's this to launch you on your two-week program? "Before leaving home, focus on two random details of the clothing or accessories on a family member, roommate, or the first person you see that day. Write those details on a piece of paper and slip it into your wallet." At the end of the day, you have to recall those details and compare what you remember with what's on your notes.

Of course, the physical and mental exercises gradually increase in intensity and complexity as the two-week period progresses.

Small stresses that the need to keep physically and mentally healthy is not just for high-powered executives, career-driven professionals and multi-tasking go-getters. "Whether you are a working mother juggling a career, household, and carpool duties, a retired professional concerned with aging issues and increased forgetfulness, or perhaps a college student with upcoming finals… we all have stress in our lives, as well as room to improve our diets, physical conditioning and general lifestyle choices."

The memory expert adds that peak performance, either physically or mentally, is achieved when you are relaxed and stress-free. "Even if you don't notice the immediate benefits, stress reduction has a strong impact on long-term brain and body health," he says.

Hidden enemy

In another section of the book, he writes, "The greatest hidden enemy of memory and quality longevity is chronic stress… Many of us lead tense and hurried lives where even the mental and physical benefits of occasional rest and recreation disappear quickly and leave us as stressed out as before."

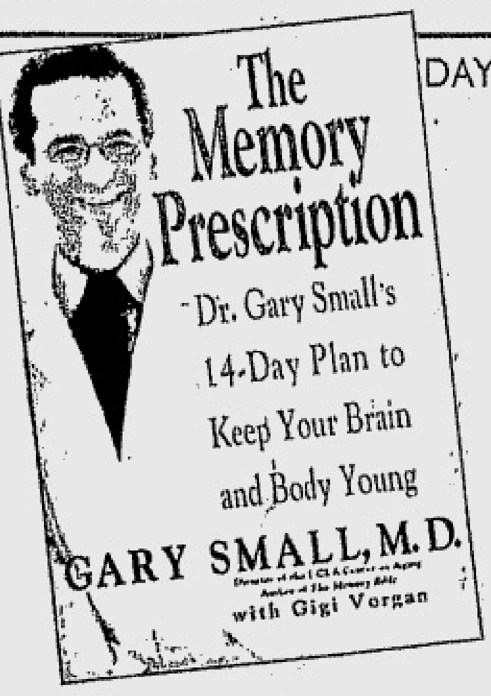
Small also emphasizes that you cannot be too early in starting your mental-fitness program. He points out that scientific evidence shows that brain aging begins as early as in the 20's.

The UCLA professor says his 14-day prescription is designed to meet the needs of most people. It is flexible enough to be adjusted to fit comfortably into most people's lifestyles.

Small gives three reasons why he decided to limit his prescription to two weeks:

- People see significant and positive results in 14 days or less.
- Two weeks is an undaunting commitment for most people to make to a new program.
- When people complete the program for at least 14 days, "they reach a critical milestone where they notice a real change occurring in their lives."

"The Memory Prescription" is published by Hyperion · New York. Small has previously written "The Memory Bible: An Innovative Strategy for Keeping Your Brain Young."


The Memory Prescription
Dr. Gary Small's 14-Day Plan to Keep Your Brain and Body Young
GARY SMALL, M.D.
with Gigi Vorgan

Aging doesn't have to lead to extensive memory loss, according to Dr. Gary Small

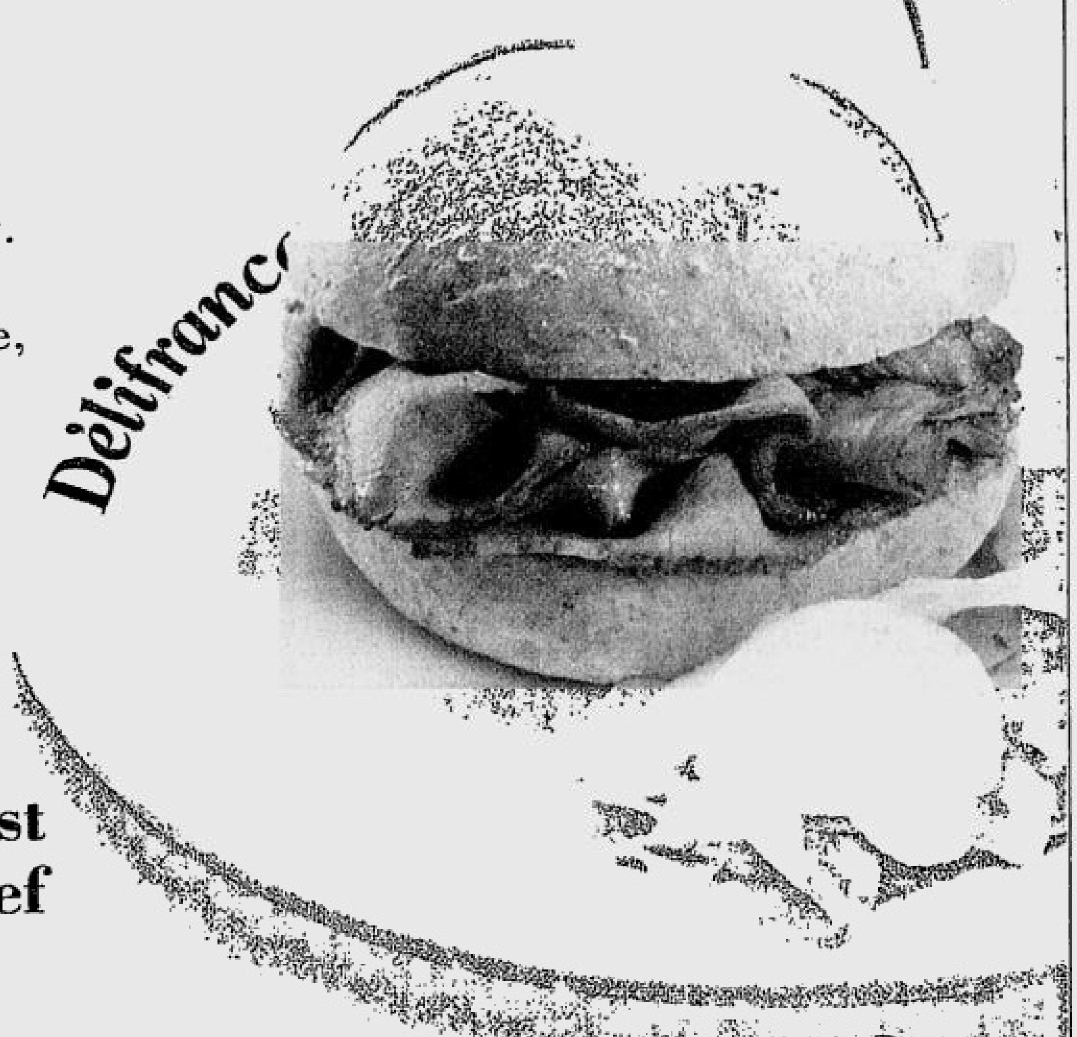
Celebrate the New at Delifrance

Welcome the New Year celebration
with the sight, sound and smell
of revelry as we celebrate
the year of the rooster.
The merriment starts now.

Come and embrace all that is new.
Salute the New Year at Delifrance,
where everything is delicious
and New means Fresh.

Bonne Année!
Happy New Year!

Roast
USDA CHOICE Beef



Dèlifrance®

In partnership with ArceDairy® ICE CREAM Only the Natural... Always

Philippines • China • Hong Kong • Malaysia • Singapore • Thailand
France • Belgium • Portugal • Greece • Spain • United Kingdom • Finland

Greenhills Theatre Mall 722-2456 / 722-2463 • The Podium 687-1608 • Glorietta 893-8534 • Greenbelt 1, 840-2274 • International School 840-8587 • Pacific Star 6700-8519 • Philam Tower 885-0201 • Power Plant Mall 898-1858 • RCBC Plaza 885-7204 • ZETA 759-3037 / 893-2302 AIM, G/F AIM Conference Center • Valero, G/F China Bank Parking • SM Makati, 2nd Level • C5 Libis 687-2549 / 687-2570 • Robinsons Galleria 687-2272 • Roosevelt 721-1284 • St. Luke's Hospital Compound • Harrison Plaza Village Square 536-0120 / 21 • Robinsons Place Manila 536-7921 SM City Manila 400-5575 / 77 • SM City Sta. Mesa 713-7170 / 72 • UN Avenue 523-5555 / 522-8566 • Corte de Las Palmas, Alabang Town Center, 807-5022 • Festival Supermall 850-3831 • Shell SLT South Bound 850-3163 • Shell-SLT North Bound • NAIA - Domestic, Terminal 2, 8771-2284 • NAIA - International, Terminal 2, 8771-2295 • NAIA Old Domestic 8771-3959

TALENTED architect and interior designer Cocoy Cordoba, Brenda Reyes and Chit Dee

GRACE Coronel-Agbayani, VP for Finance-CMC; Marietta Holmgren, and Felix Guanzon Coronel.

MEGA shakers and achievers: Young brilliant Richie Santos, group manager of Cinderella; Madam Elsie Rekawa of Sri Lanka; and attractive Malou de Venecia, marketing and communications director of Cinderella

KATRINA Khun, Indian Ambassador Navrekha Sharma, and culinary expert Arlene Arce

MOTHER and daughter team: Pretty-pretty Mara with her mom Cherie Pie Garcia

CINDERELLA ardent follower, Rosie Go, and young cyber-smart Congressman Miles Roces of the third district of Manille

SUPER pals: Ballroom empress Becky Garcia and gorgeous eye-catcher Che Singson

FASHIONABLE mother and daughter: Stacey Rodriguez and mom, Burger Machine's royal socialite, Fe Rodriguez

THE CLOTHES are real cool: Janel Coronel and model and beauty queen Sarah Jane Paez Santiago

MEN who dig British India: Ng Chin Fei of Keppel Philippines and Steven Tan of SCMC

'Indian' store opens

THE SUPER popular Cinderella definitely has the Midas touch, *palanggas*. This year was no exception when the popular store opened yet another outlet.

The lounge of the posh Podium mall was transformed into a breathtaking Indian setting when Cinderella launched the flagship store of the renowned imported brand British India (which just happens to be one of my favorites and *moi* always makes it a point to visit its outlets here and abroad).

One of the affair's sponsors, that famous Indian resto at the Fort, The Prince of Jaipur, provided the eye-catching throw pillows on the stage and other accent pieces to make the place look authentically Indian.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on Kodak Max

This one-of-a-kind happening was nothing less than fabulous, *palanggas*. I watched many of Cosmo Manille's fashionable set gather for a mystical experience as "guru" **Apollo Abraham**, whose fab voice mesmerizes, told an interesting tale of a lady's personal journey to the birthplace of the clothing line that gave rise to the phrase "colonial chic."

The awe-inspiring exotic moves of sultry belly dancers from the Ginajane Grey Dance Company, incorporated in the story, were more than enough to keep us all completely entertained.

Naturellement, all this served to set the mood for one of two highlights of the event: a fashion show featuring British India's collection of casual, classic and functional pieces made from the finest fabrics in Europe and Asia.

Models were personalities who personified the British India image of "distinctive style and substance."

Après the fashion show, the "guru" directed our attention to the other highlight of the event: the unveiling of the British India flagship store.

Golden ropes were used to pull to the sides sheer fabrics with the rich colors of fuchsia, purple and yellow—so very India, *palanggas*—that covered the store's façade.

A mad rush followed, as everyone tried to take advantage of the huge discounts offered for the launch, dahlings.

BRITISH India followers: Honorary Consul Fortune Ledesma; guest of honor Indian Ambassador Navrekha Sharma; dynamic Governor Chavit Singson of Ilocos Sur; the lady of the hour, our host, Cinderella's executive vice president, Therese Santos; civic-minded socialite Nene Leonor; Marietta Guanzon-Picache; and Honorary Consul Helen Ong

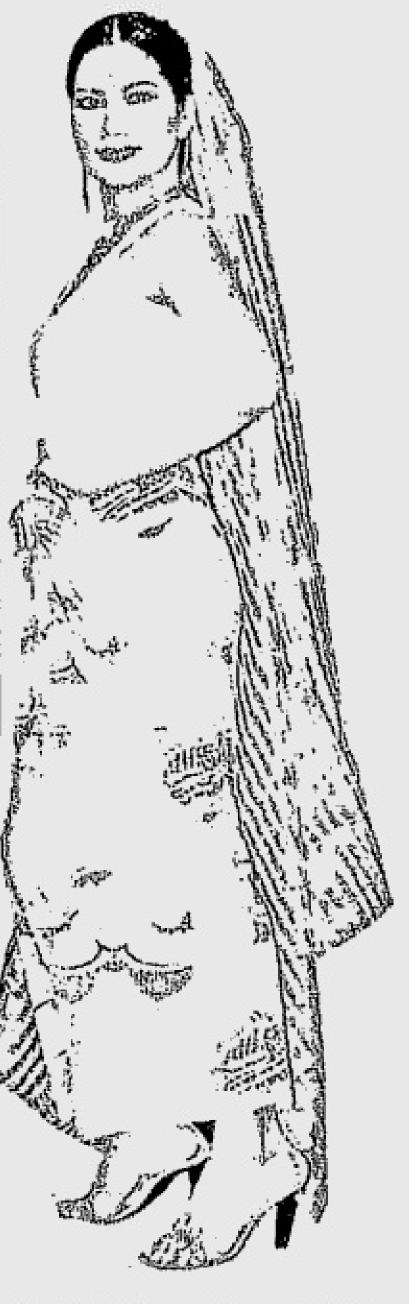
ENTERTAINMENT at its best: Mega chief executive officer of Cinderella, Arthur Coronel, with the fab belly dancers from Ginajane Grey and Frederic Famm

AT BRITISH India's smashing launch at the Podium: *Moi*, Eva Abesamis, southern heiress Allana Montelibano, and Ideaz's Bob Zozobrado

Guest of honor, Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma**, personally handed the prizes to raffle winners—gift certificates that lets them discover a fusion of Indian and Western food prepared superbly by **Arlene Arce**.

Cinderella's own Cinderella, **Therese Santos**, and her son and heir to the throne, super eligible bachelor with the LBBB's (as in looks, breeding, brains, and bucks), **Richie C.S.**, who just got back in town from a five-month post-graduate course in Retailing at Oxford University in England, welcomed us so graciously, with **Edgar** and **Arthur Coronel**.

Among the guests, dahlings were members of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. led by **Tootsie Angara**, **Louie Locsin**, **Georgina Remulla**, **Maile Roces** and **Jeannie Sandoval**. Tons of others from Cosmo-Manille's social pack were also there like **Nini Licaros**, **Eva Abesamis**, **Becky Garcia**, **Susan Campos**, **Frannie Jacinto**, **Baby de Jesus**, **Nini Layug**, **Fanny Blanco**, southern lady **Lucille Raymond Villanueva**, one of Manille's still most eligible bachelor, **Sonny Lim**; **Marietta Guanzon-Picache**; beautiful **Amalie Azanza**; vivaciously adorable **Gracie Glory Go**; China Bistro's **Jocelyn Poon**; Equitable Bank's **Rosie Go**; **Lisa Gokongwei Cheng**; **Dorcie Guingona**; **Ma. Isabel Lopez-Yokohama**; and others, just as namedroppable as those mentioned from the world of politics, fashion, business, and show biz like vivacious **Susan Laudico** and daughter **Mara Licaros**.

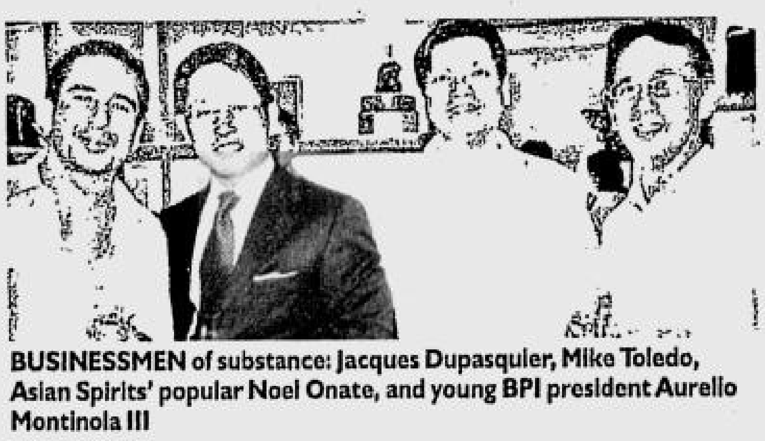

SOCIETY lady Yoli Ayson in her cool British India pure cotton skirt and blouse

Hey, *palanggas*, you'll find a British India store at Shangri-La Plaza, Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Place Manila, Cinderella Alabang Town Center, and Cinderella, Glorietta 3.

LOUIS Vuitton Philippines general manager Mark Browne and Catherine Lim of Louis Vuitton Australia

POPULAR young couple Cris and Gunn Roque

POPULAR, well-liked couple, business magnate Dong Rosal and wife, vivacious socialite Linda Legaspi


BUSINESSMEN of substance: Jacques Dupasquier, Mike Toledo, Asian Spirits' popular Noel Onate, and young BPI president Aurelio Montinola III

HARBOUR Center's CEO Michael Romero and *bon vivant* gentleman of the night life, Louie Ysmael

MODELS Rachel Soriano and Isabel Roces flanks Min Hong Jun.

Manila's men of distinction

The world's chic-est brand of luggage, Louis Vuitton in Greenbelt 4, was the scene of elegance and luxury as the French company treated a *tres* select group of Manille's men of distinction to an evening of class and sheer sophistication, *palanggas*.

Louis Vuitton Philippines general manager, the *tres* amiable **Mark Browne**, hosted the chi-chi happening attended by Bank of the Philippine Islands president **Aurelio Montinola III** and SM's **Hans Sy**, no less, with talented fashion designer **Rhett Eala**, **Marzo Samson**, Singapore-Manille businessman **Dudo Vaca**, always free art connoisseur, **Patrick Reyno**, with his pals **Miguel Rosales** and **DJ Montano**; and *tres charmant* **Louis Paul Heussaff**, plus others like them too hot to mention, *palanggas*.

Gorgeous models **Valerie de los Santos**, **Raya Mananquil**, **Isabel Roces** and **Rachel Soriano** sashayed around the store garbed in LV's pre-fall collection, with matching pieces of jewelry and watches. Hennessy cognac tasting was also held, which definitely put a high to the affair, while Moet champagne poured like forever.

With this happening, "Louis Vuitton reinforced its status as the undisputed leader in luxury and fine taste," said the smart man behind the successful event, **Edd Fuentes** of Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., no less, dahlings.

Check out Louis Vuitton at the G/F of Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

Healthy New Year gift

HEALTHY Options, a natural products store, has an array of gift packages sure to make the New Year happy.

Create-your-own gifts with premium organic wine boxes, special tea and mug sets, and food packages, among others.

If you can't decide what to give, get Healthy Options Gift Cards in P200, P500, and P1,000 denominations. Recipient can use it in any Healthy Options store with its broad selection of healthy organic foods, beverages, and personal care products.

Personalize your own gift bundles. Choose from the store's wide range of nutritious and delicious organic foods, beverages and personal care products. Then, have it packed with the help of Healthy Options' customer assistants.

Among items available at Healthy Options are premium organic wines, available in single- and twin-bottle boxes; special tea-and-mug set at P295 each, which comes with collection of Healthy Options' traditional medicinal herb teas; and the Organic Harvest and Natural Gourmet food bundles.

Visit Healthy Options stores at 1/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L Ayala Center, Cebu City; lower G/F SM City, North Edsa; 2/L SM City, Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; 2/L SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City; SM Pampanga; and now SM Bicutan.

Visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph, or call Healthy Options at 7136930/31, or fax 7139450.

ORGANIC Wine Pack in single bottle made available by Healthy Options. The gift pack also comes in twin bottle pack, which is a perfect gift for the season to liven up the occasion and celebrate in good health.

Gifts of caring

WATSONS Personal Care Stores offers unique and affordable holiday gifts and goodies for family and friends.

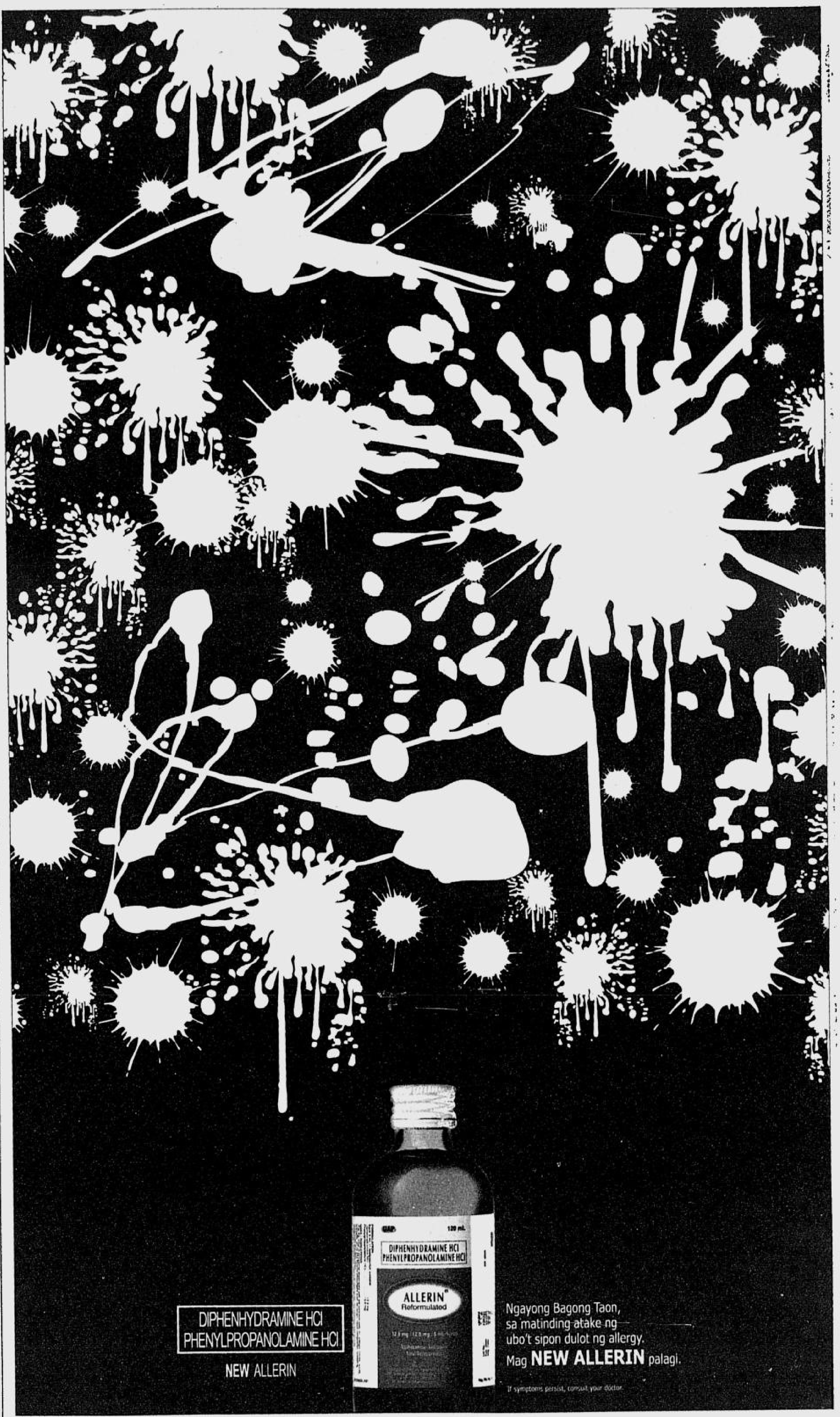
Grace Lee Rivera, Watsons merchandise director, said the chain has all kinds of gifts, big and small, that will appeal to every Filipino.

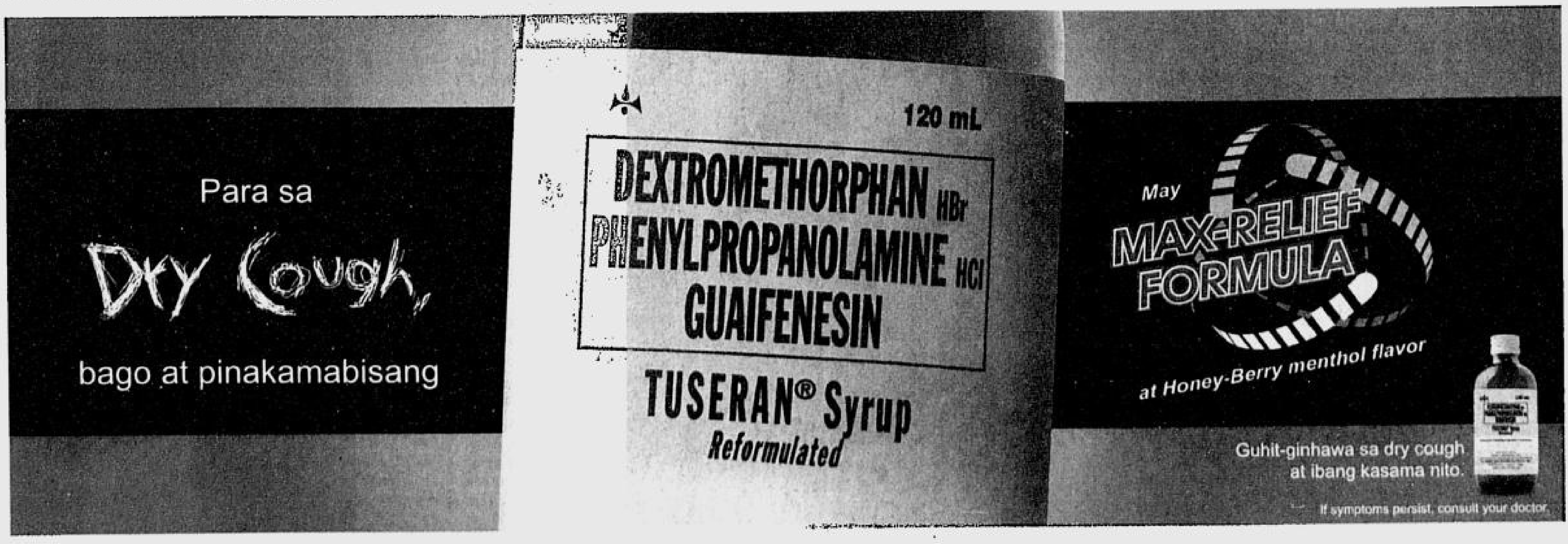
Aside from medicine and other personal care products, Watsons also carries an assortment of candies, chocolates, toys, fragrances, cosmetics, Christmas decor and personal care gift sets.

Exclusive Snoopy collectibles are also available like flashlight, slippers, radio, umbrella, bag, calculator, mug and LCD watches—all priced at only P89 each.

Watsons is also selling at P20 apiece 100,000 calendars made by artists from Tahanang Walang Hagdanan for the benefit of wards of the institution for the physically handicapped.

Watsons Personal Care Stores (Phils.) is a joint venture of the Shoemart Group of Co. and Watsons of Hong Kong. It currently has 105 stores nationwide and is opening three more new stores before the end of the year.


DIPHENHYDRAMINE HCl
PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE HCl
NEW ALLERIN
120 mL
ALLERIN
Reformulated
Ngayong Bagong Taon,
sa matinding atake ng
ubo't sipon dulot ng allergy.
Mag NEW ALLERIN palagi.
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.


Para sa
Dry Cough,
bago at pinakamabisang
120 mL
DEXTROMETHORPHAN HBr
PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE HCl
GUAIFENESIN
TUSERAN® Syrup
Reformulated
May
MAX-RELIEF FORMULA
at Honey-Berry menthol flavor
Guhit-ginhawa sa dry cough at ibang kasama nito.
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Tips for a happy and healthy New Year

2005
2004
BEER
BEER
AGR

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

EXCESS can lead to malaise. You probably know the universal maxim only too well: "Too much of anything can lead to no good."

Here are gentle reminders to help you through the holidays:

- Caffeine works directly on your central nervous system. The more you drink it, the more hyper you will become. It can accumulate in your system over the years because it can get stored in the body's fat tissues, and will not be easy to eliminate.

The Journal of the American Medical Association reported on a new disease called caffeinism, with symptoms like irritability, weight loss, insomnia, chills and low-grade fever. The Big Three of caffeine (coffee, cola and chocolate) may give you the lift you're looking for if taken in excessive amounts. More than three cups of coffee, three cans of cola and three bars of chocolate can lead to hyperacidity and jittery, excitable behavior.

- Alcohol, like caffeine, is one of the most widely used drugs in the world. The public perception that it is a non-drug results from its availability.

However you look at it, alcohol is a drug and its use must be regulated by the individual. Unlike caffeine, which is a stimulant, alcohol is a sedative depressant.

The popular notion that beer is milder than wine, which is milder than whisky/brandy, is wrong. Beer's alcohol content is 40 percent, wine 12 percent and whiskey about 50 percent. But they all have the potential to make you drunk.

Five cans of beer can just as easily get you tipsy as five shots of brandy. But did you know that *when* you drink is also a serious matter?

Studies show that daytime drinking may be more lethal to you than nighttime imbibing. It has been found that when alcohol stays longer in your system, it has more time to adversely affect your brain cells. The most vulnerable hours are between 2 a.m. and noontime. During this period alcohol is processed much slowly, causing a rise in blood alcohol.

The "safer" periods? Late afternoon to early evening.

The finger foods you eat while you drink can also make alcohol more high-risk. High-fat canapés with your cocktails will certainly drive your cholesterol level sky-high.

If you have to drink, do eat first or put enough food in your stomach before you start. Never drink on an empty tummy. Increase your Vitamin C intake for the day as alcohol depletes the body's reserve.

- Though prohibited and illegal, the recreational use of drugs is known to continue in popular bars and nightspots. Drugs can kill. And part-time users who swear never to overdo things end up as addicts.

> 'Less is more' is the motto that should guide your lifestyle. Less bingeing, more discipline can lead to optimum health

Users may not know this but there is no such thing as pure cocaine (the most you get is 60 percent purity). Some cuts may be harmless—lactose, dextrose inositol (a B vitamin) and mannitol. But non-drug cuts—cornstarch, flour and talcum powder—can be dangerous because they can form clots in the body.

The short-lived effects of coke (about half an hour) include a boost in self-confidence, energy, euphoria. The downside is, to reach another high, more drug is needed. Thus, dependence becomes inevitable.

As for ill effects, drugs can cause rapid heart beat, appetite loss, nosebleeds, vomiting, convulsions, feeling of crawling bugs on the skin, anaphylactic shock (extreme allergic reaction) and death. Withdrawal symptoms include irritability, detachment, depression, fatigue.

A treatment administered at Fair Oaks Hospital in Summit, New Jersey, is Tyrosine, an amino acid, mixed with orange juice for 12 days, vitamin supplements like C and B; and tyrosine hydroxylase (an enzyme that helps the body use tyrosine). St. John's Wort polyphenol complex tablets were helpful.

If you have a drug problem seek medical and psychiatric help immediately.

- Sugar is a sweet experience that gives only empty calories. It can compromise the immune system attack the skin's collagen and lead to diabetes that results from a body's inability to process sugar completely.

Take your sugar "fix" in moderation and, if possible, in its natural form as in fresh fruits.

"Less is more" is a motto that can guide one's lifestyle. Less bingeing, more discipline can lead to optimum health.

Attracting goodness

To feel better is to believe that you are. Belief creates biology. You will create who you are and how well you feel by simply believing it. Affirm: "Goodness is in me and manifests for me now." Love and light!

Reference: Earl Mendell's "Vitamin Bible for the 21st Century"

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday
Favorite comic strip poll

ANO'NG COMICS TRIP MO?!!
a. Ragnarok
b. Darna
c. Garfield
d. Mother Goose & Grimm
e. Pugad Baboy
f. Inday Wanda
g. Zits
h. Full House

① Choose from the titles below:

② Text inqvote <corresponding letter of choice>

Send to 291(Smart) 2949(Globe)

③ Get a chance to win a personal computer, cellphone and exciting gift items from Ragnarok, Fully Booked and Filbars in weekly & grand draws. Read the the Inquirer Comics every Sunday to find out if you've won The more votes you send in, the more chances of winning! See promo print ads for details

The truth about diabetes

THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) estimates that about 184 million people worldwide have diabetes, a chronic illness resulting from the body's failure to process sugar completely.

In the Philippines, estimates put diabetics at about three million.

But very few people know enough about or understand the disease. The Gopi Memorial Hospital addresses some myths about the disease.

Diabetes is contagious.

An endocrine disease, diabetes is basically caused by a malfunction of the insulin-producing organs in the body. It can be inherited but it is not contagious.

Children with diabetes will eventually outgrow it.

Until a cure is found, people with the disease, including children, will never be rid of it.

Insulin cures diabetes.

Insulin helps keep blood sugar levels in the near-normal range but it does not cure diabetes.

Insulin causes blindness (or other diabetic complications).

Elevated blood glucose and blood pressure levels, not insulin, may cause some diabetic complications. Insulin, a natural hormone present in every person's body, helps control glucose levels but does not cause long-term complications of diabetes.

People with diabetes can't eat carbohydrates.

Moderation, not deprivation, is the key in dealing with diabetes. There is no reason diabetics should only eat bland, tasteless food and carbohydrates need not be banished completely from their diets.

Sugar Free
Sugar Free
Sugar
Sugar Free

MURRAY Sugar Free Cookies

An option for diabetics, who have to watch their diets carefully, are Murray Sugar Free Cookies from the United States. Murray is a major sponsor of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the American Diabetes Association. In the Philippines, it supports the Philippine Center for Diabetic Education Foundation Inc.

Murray cookies come in chocolate chip, chewy double fudge, chocolate sandwich, vanilla cremes, shortbread, peanut butter and oatmeal. Available in supermarkets nationwide, they are distributed by Benby Enterprises.

Savor the Splendor of the Season at the Richmonde

Celebrate *and* relax the perfect way—the Richmonde way.

NEW YEAR'S EVE *Specials*

Choose from these special room packages and spend a New Year's Eve to remember at the Richmonde.

ROOM TYPE	WITH BRUNCH BUFFET	WITH TICKETS TO THE COUNTDOWN PARTY AT THE LOBBY AND BRUNCH BUFFET	WITH NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AND BRUNCH BUFFET
Deluxe Room	PhP 2,800++	PhP 4,000++	Php 4,400++
Junior Suite	3,200++	4,400++	4,800++
One Bedroom Suite	3,900++	5,100++	5,500++
Two Bedroom Suite	5,000++	6,800++	7,400++

* Inclusions for two persons if staying in a deluxe room, junior suite or one-bedroom suite and for three persons if staying in a two-bedroom suite.

Brunch buffet is served on January 1 from 9 am to 2 pm at The Richmonde Grill.

All guests availing themselves of our holiday rates get a chance to win exciting trips and prizes in the holiday raffle.

INCLUSIONS:

- Local newspaper and bottled water, replenished daily
- Complimentary use of Health Club, sauna and indoor pool
- Continental buffet breakfast at The Exchange Bar from 6 am to 9 am for early risers.

Rates are subject to 10% service charge and applicable government tax.

For local residents and expats with ACR.

Christmas Season room packages still available until Jan. 9, 2005 (except Dec. 31) for as low as PhP2,200++ for an overnight stay or PhP6,000++ for a 3-night stay in a deluxe room.

The Lobby's CHEERS *to* 2005!

Join balladeers Joey Bautista and Girl Valencia in a New Year's Eve countdown to 2005 overflowing with bubblies and hors d'oeuvres. The fun starts at 9:30 pm at the lobby.

Room packages with Countdown Party tickets available.

For inquiries and reservation, please call 638-7777 extension 3401 or 3409

COUNTDOWN PARTY: P700++

The Richmonde Grill's CARNIVAL *of* Sensations

Welcome the New Year with a royal feast! Help yourself to mouthwatering appetizers like Hungarian and Mushroom al Ajillo and Chicken Roulade. Sumptuous entrees like Grilled Lamb Chops with Mint Glaze and Roast Prime Rib with Sauce Bourguignonne. And scrumptious desserts like Strawberry Cheesecake and Choco Tiramisu.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER BUFFET P 950++

Special thanks to our sponsors:

THE POST
SOUTH EAST ASIAN AIRLINES

For more information, call 638-7777 extension 3703 or 3704.

THE RICHMONDE HOTEL
Distinctly Richmonde. Distinctly Personal.

Utell
21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel: (632) 638-7777 • Fax: (632) 638-8567 • E-mail: trh@richmondehotel.com.ph
Web Site: www.richmondehotel.com

HEALTHY SNACK FOR FEASTING SEASON

The feasting may be unavoidable during the holidays so why not try something healthy during the occasional "breaks"? Have a cup of Nestlé 0% Fat Yogurt every day. Yogurt is light yet filling. Bits of fruit make i t taste like a creamy dessert. Moreover, every cup of Nestlé 0% Fat Yogurt contains millions of live friendly bacteria that help digest food, protect against harmful bacteria and eliminate toxic substances in the digestive system. It has high amounts of calcium and other health benefits of milk. Nestlé 0% Fat Yogurt, which comes in two flavors—strawberry and mango—is available at the chilled section of supermarkets or convenience stores.

Nestle
0% Fat
Nestle
0% Fat

IS the paranormal unscientific? /D3

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

You can gain weight even if you exercise

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

PEOPLE often ask why they gain weight despite a regular workout schedule. The person asking is usually about to give up his/her fitness routine out of frustration for having nothing to show after hours spent in a gym.

I don't blame them for feeling that way. But quitting is not the answer. Exercise has many other benefits aside from weight loss.

The most common reason for weight gain is simply that more calories are being consumed than burned. Exercise will not help you lose weight if you do not change your eating habits. Many aerobic instructors are overweight despite teaching five to seven classes a week. They are fit but they still have excess fat.

People assume that just because they exercise, they will automatically lose weight. It's as if just exercising will somehow magically banish excess weight.

But I assure you, even if you do several hours of vigorous exercise every day, if you eat more than you burn, you will still gain weight. No class, machine, workout program or gym in the world can help you lose weight if you consume more calories than your body needs. It's that simple.

Eating mistakes

People believe that whatever excess calories they eat today, they will be able to burn tomorrow by doing more exercise than normal. Unfortunately, this is easier said than done.

Here's a reader's "true confession" of a midnight feast: four slices of thin-crust pepperoni pizza, 12-oz soft drink, one scoop of ice cream and a bag of potato chips. That is about 2,000 calories.

To burn that many calories, you would have to do about two and a half hours of high intensity aerobic exercise (around 400 calories per 30-minute session). What do you think actually happens the next day? Not all the calories from the binge are burned because it is unrealistic to exercise that long at that intensity. The excess calories are stored as fat.

Another mistake people make is believing that as long as they eat low-fat or nonfat food, they can easily burn it through exercise because "it's only sugar." Huge servings of pasta, bread or rice are usually the culprits here.

I once knew someone who couldn't lose weight despite a heavy workout schedule. It turned out that she usually ate three servings of rice at lunch and dinner. Not only that, a "serving" meant one cup.

In reality, she was eating six cups of rice a day or 1,200 calories just from rice. Since rice was not the only food she was eating, she was definitely eating more than she could burn. No wonder she couldn't lose weight.

Now that low-carb diets are the craze, the same mistake is being made probably by the same people who used to be low-fat believers. The truth is that whether calories come from protein, fat or carbohydrates, if you eat more than you need, you will put on weight.

Exercise mistakes

I see so many people cheating themselves by not giving their all when they exercise. They spend a lot of time at the gym but most of the minutes are spent chatting with staff or classmates. Others are working out at very low intensities when they are capable of challenging themselves at a higher level and thus, burning more calories.

The frequency and duration of their workouts are appropriate but the intensity is sorely lacking.

Other people think they are exercising regularly when, in reality, their visits to the gym are few and far between. Many years ago, I had a client who lamented her inability to lose weight despite exercising "regularly." Of course, when her attendance records for the year were laid out in front of her, she had to find another excuse because it was very obvious that there was not one month when she managed to attend more than six times.

Right kind of weight gain

It is possible to become smaller in measurements but gain weight on the scale because you are losing fat and gaining muscle. This happens especially when people do weight training.

This is a desirable change in body composition and is cause for rejoicing. More muscle means a higher metabolism.

However, some people are so weight conscious that even if they lose inches and drop to a smaller clothes size they are unhappy because they weigh a few pounds more. They need an attitude adjustment, otherwise, they may stop exercising thinking it's not worth it.

Eating habits as important as exercise habits

You cannot maintain your weight even with a regular workout schedule if you are constantly eating high-calorie foods like desserts, ice cream, burgers, fries, chips, soft drinks, bacon, *longganisa*, etc. High-calorie food should be eaten only once in a while and in small portions.

Don't eat gigantic servings of white bread, pasta or rice. Your daily diet should consist of normal portions of whole grains, vegetables, fruits, legumes, lean meat, chicken, fish and low-fat dairy products.

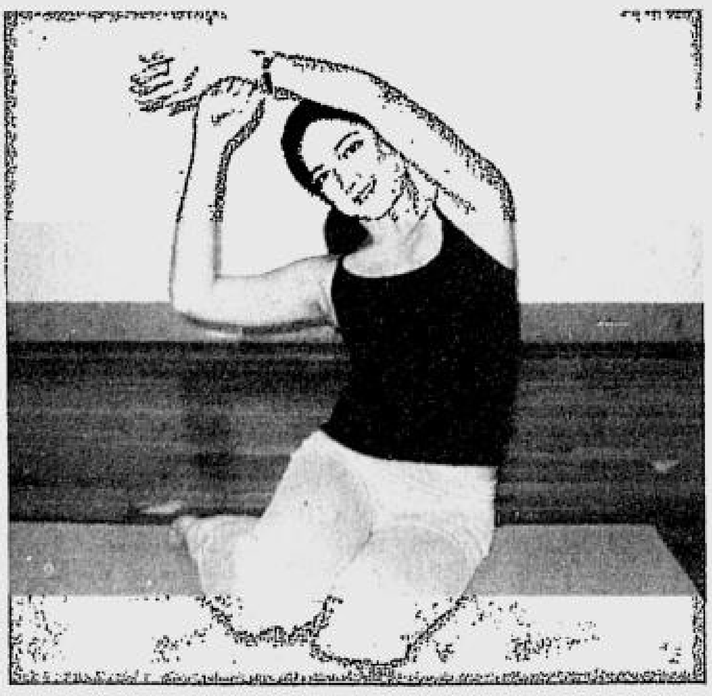
Like someone once said, "Diet as if you were not exercising and exercise as if you were not dieting."

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Mermaid stretch



THIS Pilates-inspired exercise stretches the side of the body.

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Sit on your right hip with your knees bent and off to the side.

2. Raise your right arm overhead. Hold your right wrist with your left hand and gently pull your arm sideways.

3. Hold for the desired length of time. Do the other side.

Performance tips:

1. An easier option is to keep your left hand on the mat to help with balance.

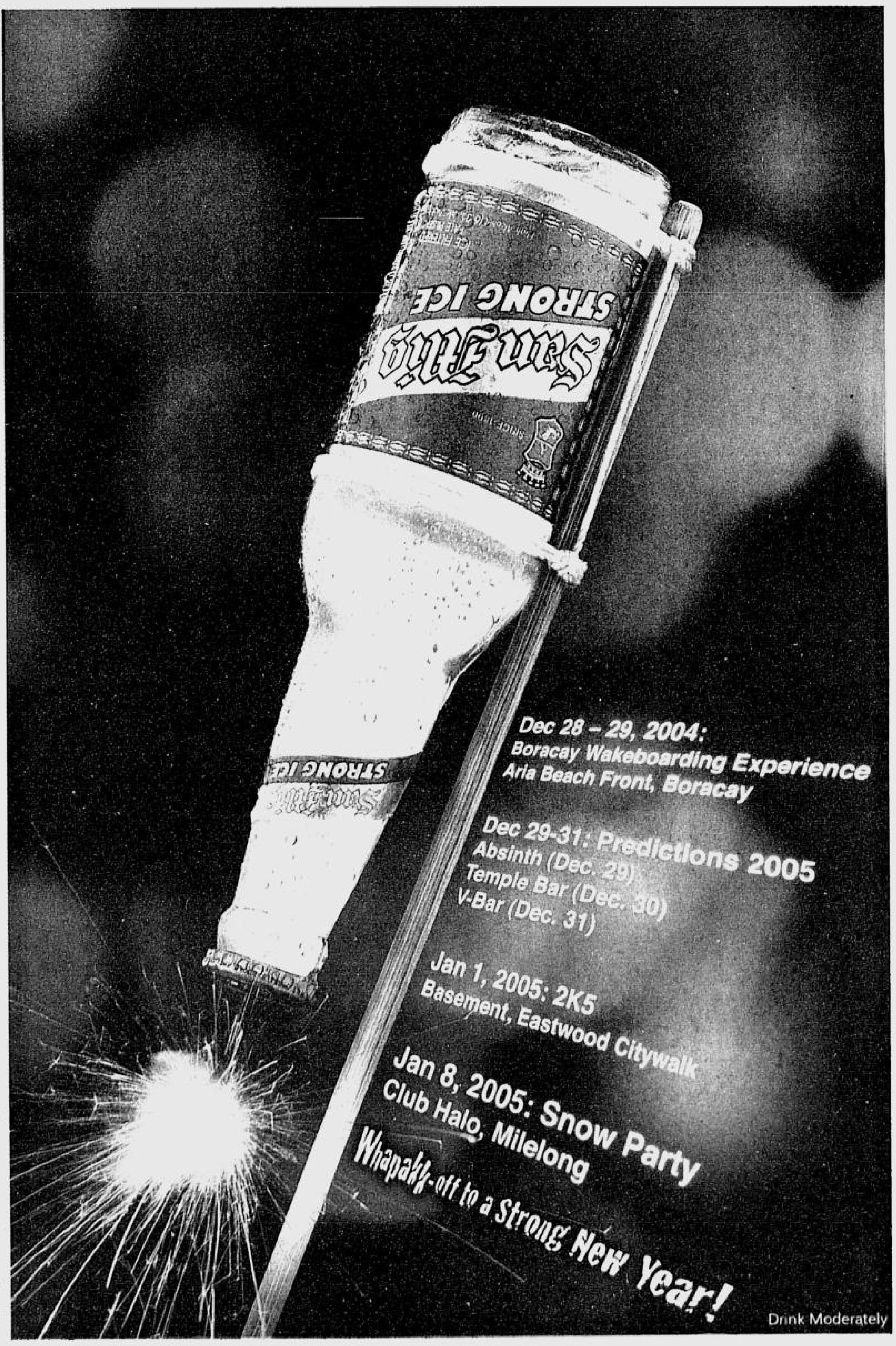
2. Lean your body sideways to increase the stretch.

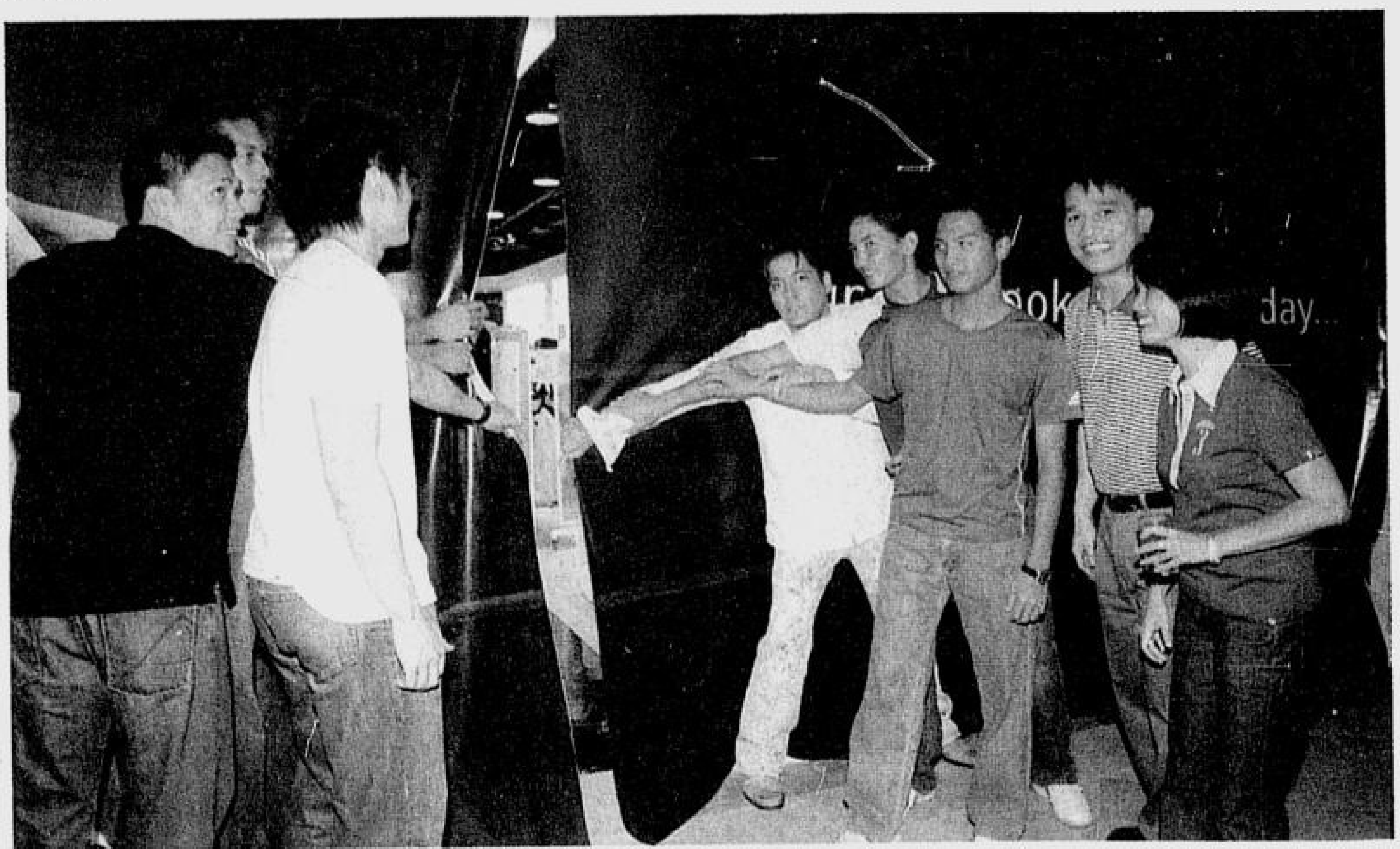
Repetition:

Hold for 10-20 seconds. Do one to two times per side.

NOSE LIFT & BUST LIFT
The Alpha Way
AESTHETICS ACHIEVED THE LESS EXPENSIVE WAY
Facial & beauty problem should not stop you from engaging in your social life.
At ALPHA Center for Health& Beauty is your permanent confidence, so you can look your best... & WORRY FREE!
COSMETIC SURGERY BY QUALIFIED SURGEON
• Nosetrim • Eyebag Removal • Slit Eye • Eye Deep setting • Chin Augmentation. Cleft Chin Dimple Creation • Lip Reduction • Facelift • Dermabrasion • Breast Augmentation • Breast Reduction • Body Contouring • Hair Transplant • Vaginoplasty • Otoplasty (Protruding Ear) • Facial/Peel • Acne Treatment • Varicose Vein Treatment • Buttocks Enlargement
Also Available: HAIR TRANSPLANT & BEAUTY LOAN
Alpha
CENTER FOR HEALTH & BEAUTY
Rm 102 ALPHA Building # 77 Boni Serrano Ave., QC
Tel. 727.4906 • Telfax: 724.8963
Hospital Tel. 533.0685 (MWF 2 - 4 pm)

TMI here!
METROBANK
For discounts, freebies, perks and fun.
play display · Una más · Souk


San Miguel STRONG ICE
Dec 28 - 29, 2004: Boracay Wakeboarding Experience Aria Beach Front, Boracay
Dec 29-31: Predictions 2005 Absinth (Dec. 29) Temple Bar (Dec. 30) V-Bar (Dec. 31)
Jan 1, 2005: 2K5 Basement, Eastwood Citywalk
Jan 8, 2005: Snow Party Club Halo, Milelong
Whapakk-off to a Strong New Year!
Drink Moderately



MARTIN Nievera couldn't wait to unveil the newly re-launched Adidas store in Rockwell.

ZSA Zsa Padilla and Martin Nievera seem to have more in common than music—Adidas finds.

Madman goes to store opening

MARTIN Nievera convincing Kris Aquino to trade her designer bag for the funky Adidas original slingbag.

WHAT happens when the Concert King, the Madman himself, Martin Nievera, graces the opening of a newly revamped Adidas shop in Rockwell? Utter madness and a whole lot of fun!

Nievera helped the Adidas team—president John Alonte, marketing director Angelica Suiza, sales manager Bing Paras, finance officer MJ Chavez, and franchise owners Agnes and Danny Marcon—unveil the revamped and streamlined store.

After the doors opened, the singer tried on shoes, jackets and shirts; and checked out bags. He exchanged shopping notes with celebrity friends talk show host Kris Aquino and singer Zsa Zsa Padilla.

By the time he left the store, he was almost staggering from the weight of his Adidas purchases. Other Adidas-happy people were up and coming actor and heartthrob Luke Jickain, print and commercial model Bridget Inoferio, hunks Francis Ricafort and Zanjoe Marudo, Rey Evangelista and Peter Jun Simon of the Purefoods basketball team, and tennis champions Kyle Dandan and Irwin de Guzman.

MARTIN Nievera shows that Adidas shoes can kick ass.

11 Pinoy bands perform at closing of adventure race

SCREAMING fans recently brought the Samsung AXN Challenge to a fantastic finish as the huge crowd cheered on the closing acts of Rivermaya, Jacque and Kitchie Nadal at the end point carnival at Glorietta 3 Park.

A total of 11 top Pinoy bands performed at the event. Acoustic heavies Nyoy Volante and the Mannos kicked off the afternoon program with renditions of John Mayer and Al Jarreau songs, as well as hits such as "Nasaan Ka Na?" Rivermaya brought down the house with their lively pop rock tunes "Elisi" and "Liwanag sa Dilim" while singing sensation Kitchie Nadal entertained with her hit song "Run" and the chart-topping "'Wag na 'Wag Mong Sasabihin." Other big acts of the night included Jacque, The Mongols, Dice & K9, Mayonnaise, Thor, Sponge Cola, Chicosci and Agaw Agimat.

This year, Asia's premier urban adventure race topped itself by making local adventure racing history with the incorporation of a large vessel ship into its race route. Participants climbed on deck of the shipping liner M/S Philippines and rappelled down from one of its lifeboats, after traversing the interiors of the floating vessel.

Racers also showed off their creativity and ingenuity as they constructed their own mode of transportation made from rope and bamboo. The race also had its wacky moments as participants fished for shoes from the top of a 3-story-high beam at The Power Plant Mall.

A total of 240 adventure racers and athletes joined this year's Samsung AXN Challenge. Among this year's participants were "Gameplan"'s Tricia Chiongbian of Team TRI and Rovilson Fernandez of Team Bago Balance. Top businessman and adventure enthusiast Ernie Lopez also joined the race with his Team Metroactive Oakley.

"It was a very good race and our team did pretty well, in spite of a few obstacles we faced," said Tricia, whose team managed to finish fifth overall.

"The disciplines were evenly spaced out and it took us to many places I've never been before," said Rovilson. "I was actually surprised that Manila has good streets to roller blade on," he added in jest.

Leading the pack of racers was Team Merrell Adventure, composed of Thumbie Remigio, Popo Nagtalon and Jojo Macalintal who won the Mixed Category. Capping the Men's Division is Team Merrell Outdoor with Casper Bunuan, Danny Dematera and Jorje Pesquera. Team Bombshells, with Claire Montemayor, Janet Belarmino and Noelle Wenceslao again won in the Women's Category.

A one-hour program featuring highlights of the Samsung AXN Challenge 2004 will be aired on AXN on Jan. 8, 2005.

Insurance firm goes to Pampanga

THE UNITED Specialists Healthcare Inc., (USHI) will be launched Dec. 29 in the province of Pampanga, the beginning of an expansion plan involving major cities outside Metro Manila like Davao and Cebu, among others.

USHI chief executive officer (CEO) Dr. Joselito Babaran will be coming home from the United States to spearhead the expansion. US Healthcare, Inc. (USA) launched recently the Membership Wellness Card in selected Filipino-Amercian associations in California.

The Pampanga launch is the first in a series of launches outside Metro Manila. USHI will be located at Krystal Homes, MacArthur Highway, San Fernando City, Pampanga.

For over a year now, US Healthcare has been providing Filipinos with a viable healthcare alternative. This discount card may be availed by everyone even those without pre-existing health condition. Medical screenings and fixed age are not required. USHI cardholders may have as much as 30% discount for payment of medical and dental services or purchase of medicines. Also included among the benefits is a personal accident insurance for members ages 1 to 65. In the past, these services are only made available through insurance providers in US. Good thing USHI was introduced in the Philippines in July 2003. To date, there are more than 1,000 providers in Metro Manila to provide Filipinos with healthcare insurance that will answer their needs.

Call USHI at 830-0854 or 830-0856 or visit their office at Room 1707, Cityland Herrera Towers, 98 V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village Makati City.

Voice can heal

BACTIDOL, through its Empowering Voices campaign, pays tribute to psychologists and counselors who use their voice to help people in trouble, particularly the young.

Through the campaign, Bactidol tries to make people aware of the importance of their voices.

For its Empowering Voices campaign, (Hexetidine) Bactidol, the only oral antiseptic recognized by the eye, nose and throat experts, has asked the help of two counselors who use their voices to try to make a difference in the lives of young adults.

Sr. Mary Celeste Yuzon of the Religious of the Good Shepherd says it is difficult to guide young people, who seem to be more confused than others.

She says it is important to use their language and words they will understand and make them feel comfortable. She tries not to sound authoritative since she does not think she can solve their problems.

COUNSELING, for Dr. Imelda Villar, requires very good voice quality.

SR. Mary Celeste Yuzon of the Religious of the Good Shepherd says it is important to have a voice that heals a person.

A counselor needs more a therapeutic or healing voice, she adds.

Dr. Imelda Villar, a psychotherapist and former president of the Psychological Association of the Philippines, says the youth find it hard to make decisions on their own. One has to have a lot of patience and a genuinely caring tone of voice to get through to them.

She says she takes care of her voice because it is important to help young people overcome their insecurities and anger. She tries to get them to relax.

Both Dr. Villar and Sr. Celeste know the importance of their voices on the people they are counseling.

They take care of their throats Sr. by gargling with an oral antiseptic regularly to avert mouth and throat problems. They also recommend taking vitamin C regularly to ward off coughs and colds, and getting enough sleep.

Scientific proof of paranormal ignored

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

"IS THERE scientific basis to the things you talk about in your column... those psychic and paranormal phenomena, psychic healing, reincarnation and the like?" readers and radio listeners often ask.

I have answered this question several times before, but I think an elaboration of the basic points will help clarify the issue.

First, we must define what we mean by science. One definition I remember from my college days is: "Science is a systematic body of proven knowledge." Often when we talk of science, we mean the physical sciences—physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, etc.

People often forget that science was developed to study and explain the material or physical universe. It has established strict and foolproof rules and procedures for determining the validity or genuineness of a physical thing or event, such as germs, bacteria, solar eclipse. Science was never meant to explain or prove non-physical reality or phenomena, like spirits, astral projection or reincarnation.

Perfect rules

As far as the physical universe is concerned, principles and procedures established by science are perfect. One cannot improve on them. One must go through procedures like repeatability, consistency of results, objectivity, statistical validation, peer review, etc. to prove that a physical event or phenomenon exists, or is valid and genuine.

The problem is people try to apply the established laws of the physical sciences to non-physical phenomena. That's when they get into all sorts of logical dilemma. We have no room to maneuver or a valid paradigm to use to explain through science what is clearly outside of its scope.

Science has defined what constitutes physical reality and set laws governing such reality. If I let go of a piece of stone and it falls to the ground, that's a normal natural occurrence. Gravity pulls it to the ground.

But what happens if the stone rises or floats with absolutely no means of support? No electricity, magnetism, etc. Science calls such things "paranormal," or beyond normal state of things. Logic fails to explain it.

Trickery or deception

Scientists are likely to conclude it cannot happen and, if it does, it must be a product of trickery or deception. It could very well be, we do not discount that. But suppose it is proven that it happens without trickery and can be repeated any time? What then will the scientists say? They will say it must be an "anomaly" of nature, and will completely ignore it or set it aside.

But is the case really closed? I understand that in India (I don't remember now exactly where) there is a big rock or boulder weighing several tons. If 11 people were to place their hands on top of this rock and chant in a certain rhythm and pitch, the rock would rise by itself several feet above the ground until the chanting stops or somebody removes his hand from the rock. The rock would then fall with a loud thud and pity the man with his foot underneath!

Several years ago, I talked to an Austrian researcher who had seen this phenomenon every day in India and who even participated in the mysterious process. He told me it really worked but could not explain how it happened.

He said he could find absolutely no wires or magnets or anything around the rock. Yet scientists have completely ignored it.

Another physical phenomenon science has ignored is fire walking. How can barefooted natives of Fiji, Brazil, India, Indonesia and, to a certain extent, the Philippines, walk on red hot coals without being hurt, defying all known laws of physics, biology, chemistry and medicine?

Incomplete explanation

There must be something that science has not taken into account in its explanation of how the universe really works. Current scientific principles cannot explain all phenomena, much less psychic and spiritual phenomena.

To use science to explain non-physical phenomena is like trying to solve a "new math problem with an old math mind," as the cartoon character Charlie Brown pointed out years ago.

We must perhaps await the development or establishment of a new science to help us understand the invisible universe. Meantime, physical scientists cannot insist that such phenomenon as paranormal healing or ESP should conform to their norms, otherwise it would be fraudulent. Some things clearly do not fall within their previously set paradigm.

But, in response to the earlier question, some paranormal and psychic phenomena do have scientific validation. And the scientific data on them are voluminous.

I can cite the massive scientific data collected by Dr. J. B. Rhine of Duke University to prove the existence of telepathy and clairvoyance, the 20-year experiments conducted by physicists Dr. Russell Targ and Dr. Puthoff of the Stanford Research Institute on remote viewing, and the highly controlled studies of Dr. Robert Jahn of Princeton University proving the existence of telekinesis beyond reasonable doubt.

But most critics have never really bothered to look at these scientific proofs and evidence.

E-mail jlicauco@etsamail.com.ph. Visit website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco

There must be something science has not taken into account in its explanation of how the universe works

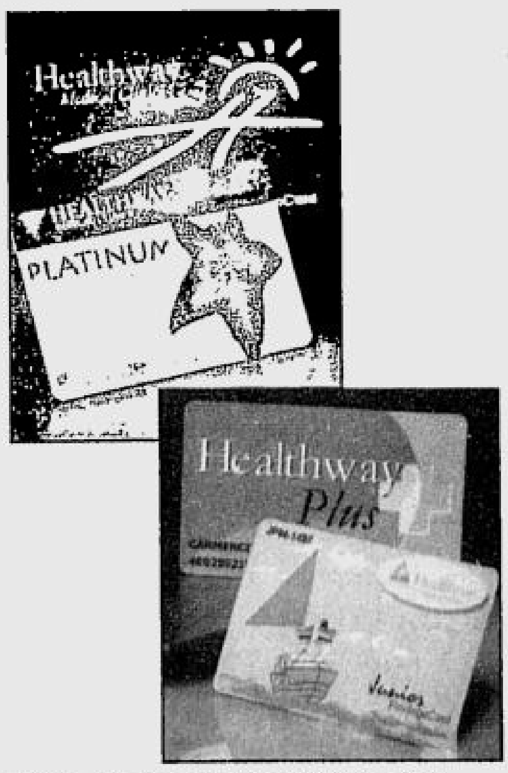
Gift of health

HEALTHWAY Medical Clinics offers a variety of packages for outpatient health coverage, particularly for senior citizens.

Clients can choose from the PrivilegeCard, Junior Privilege Card, Platinum Privilege Card or the HealthwayPlus cards. Clients can also get annual coverage and there is no pre-membership medical examination or age limit.

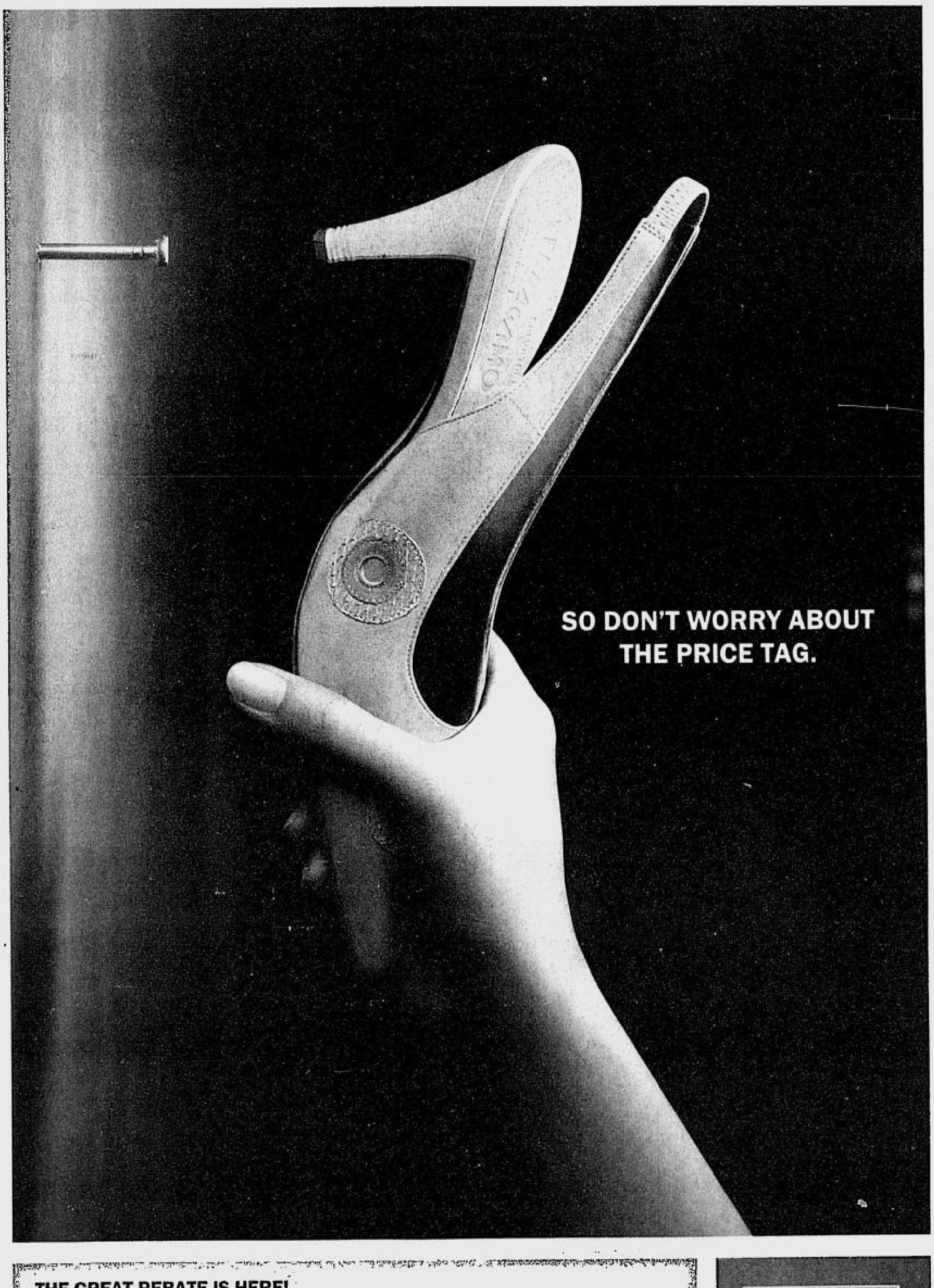
People can buy gift certificates from P500-P1,000 that can be used for an executive check-up, consultations with specialists or any medical test at any Healthway branch. Executive checkups range from the Basic Executive Package to socialized ones like cardiovascular, pulmonary, endocrinology, gastrology, renal and women's executive check up.

The packages are available at all Healthway Medical Clinics branches: SM City North Edsa, Robinsons Place Manila, Shangri-La Plaza, Festival Mall in Alabang, Greenbelt Shopping Center and Alabang Town Center. Call 8923731 or text 0917-9394929. Or log on to www.healthway.com.ph.



GIVE a gift of health this Christmas. Get yourself or a loved one a Healthway medical package: the PrivilegeCard, Junior PrivilegeCard, Platinum PrivilegeCard or the HealthwayPlus Card.

YOU CAN WIN BACK YOUR 2004 PURCHASES* WITH VISA.



THE GREAT REBATE IS HERE!

There's never been a better time to shop. Use your Visa card as much as you can from October 24 to January 23, 2005. A ₱500 single-receipt transaction could make you one of six who will win back their 2004 Visa purchases or as much as ₱500,000.

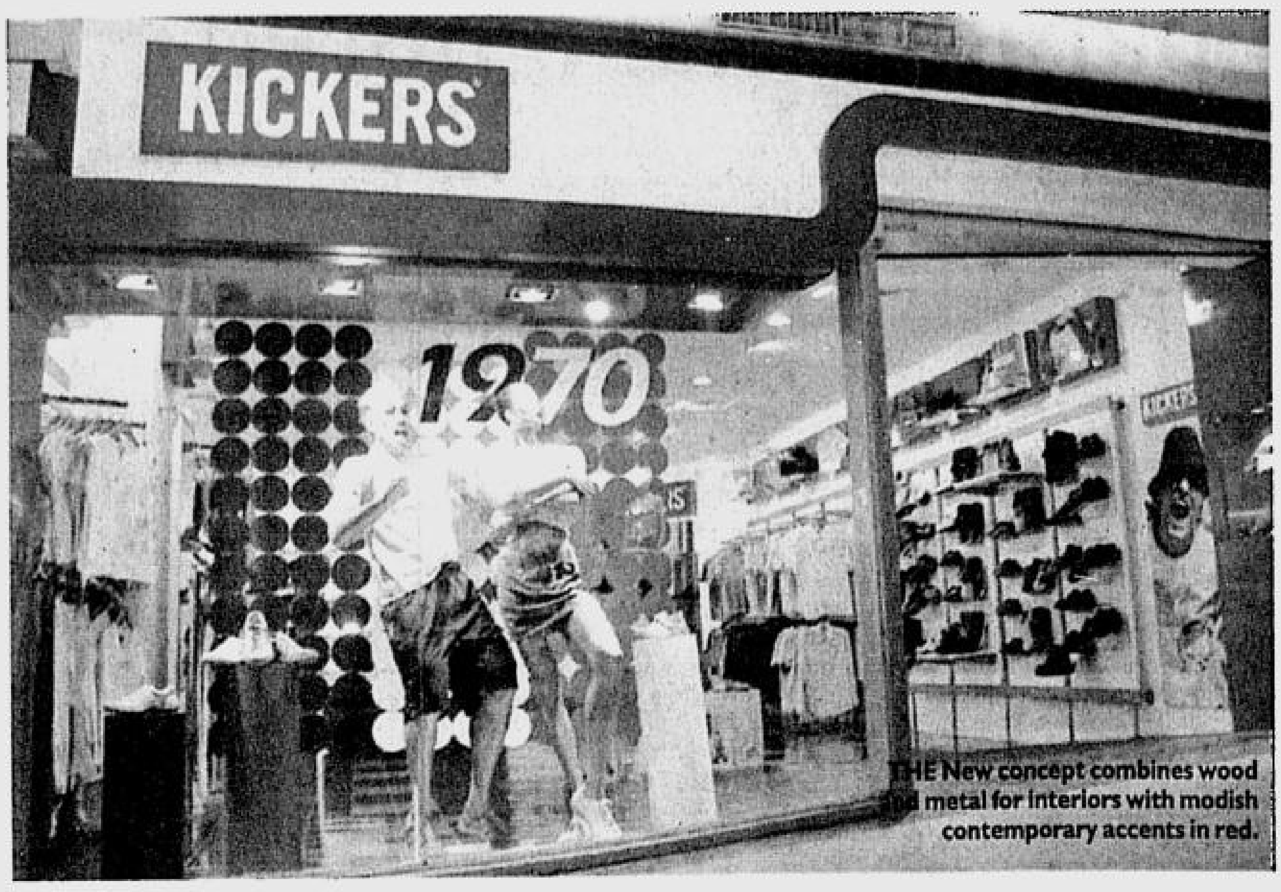
To join, register through any of the following ways:

1. Visit www.hbimasia.com/visa
2. Call 637 2768 (M.M.) or toll-free 1 800 1888 2591 (Outside M.M.)
3. Text VISA followed by your name on card,issuing bank,last 4 digits of account number,amount of transaction,date of transaction,time of transaction on transaction slip (No space after each comma. Amounts P1000 and up should be written without a comma or a peso sign). Send to 2989 for Smart and Globe. Ex: VISA MENNIE 60,AIG,1234,1000.25,102404,1808

Bi-monthly draws start on November 11, 2004.

VISA
All it takes.

European brand projects international image



THE New concept combines wood and metal for interiors with modish contemporary accents in red.

KICKERS, one of Europe's most-popular footwear brands, unveils a sleek new design concept for its boutiques around the globe.

The chic new design seeks to reflect the international nature of the French brand and its being a trailblazer in European footwear fashion.

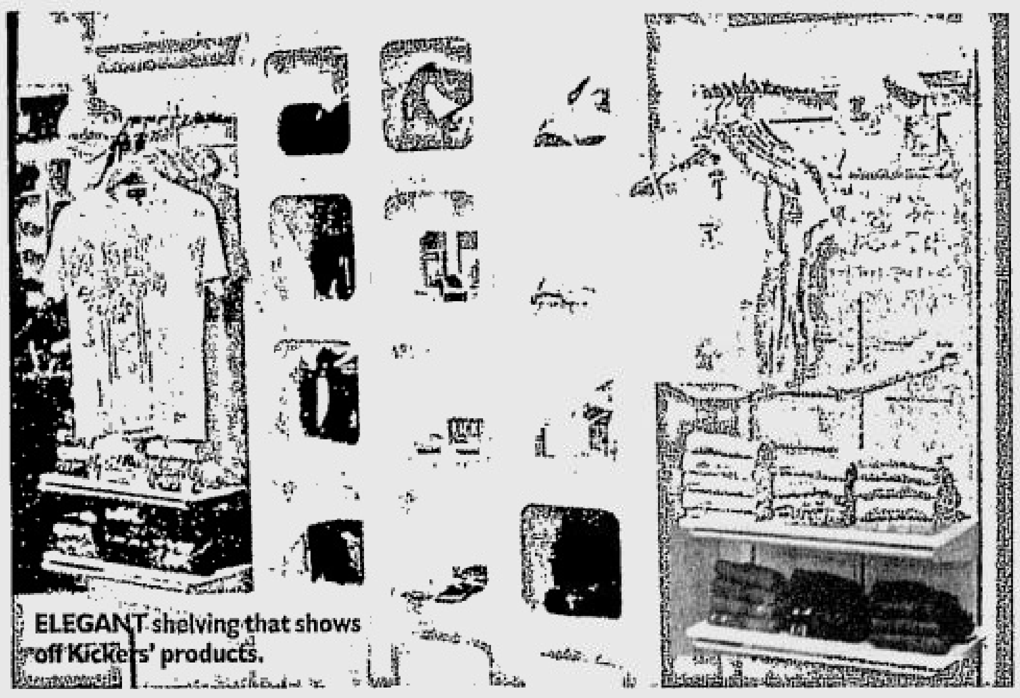
Jojo Tan, Kickers Phils. brand account manager, says Philippine outlets have also been redesigned to express the brand's global direction. The design uses sleek materials, simplified layout and a warm, clean color scheme to express the casual lifestyle associated with Kickers products.

Shoppers at Kickers in Metro Manila will get the same shopping experience as those in Australia and Hong Kong.

The redesigned Kickers stores and boutiques offer a high-level retail experience for the smart, hip consumer.

Kickers, one of Europe's most famous casual footwear brands, is known for comfort, durability and style. Boutiques are located at the Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Glorietta 4, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, SM Megamall Building A, SM City North Edsa and SM Southmall.

FLOATING shelves show off to their best advantage Kickers footwear



ELEGANT shelving that shows off Kickers' products.

Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

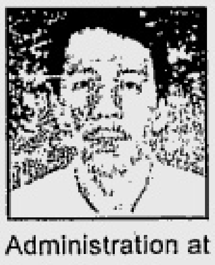
Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

How are fractures treated?

There are two general types of fractures: (1) closed or simple fracture, were the bone is broken, but the skin is not lacerated and (2) open or compound fracture, were the skin may be pierced by the bone or by a blow that breaks the skin at the time of the fracture. The bone may or may not be visible in the wound.

Doctors use casts, splints, pins, or other devices to hold a fracture in the correct position while the bone is healing. External fixation methods include plaster and fiberglass cast-braces, splint and other devices. Internal fixation methods require surgical intervention to hold the broken pieces of bone in proper position with metal plates, pins, or screws while the bone is healing.

Fractures take several weeks to several months to heal, depending on the extent of the injury and how well you follow your doctor's advice. Pain usually stops long before the fracture is solid enough to handle the stresses of normal activity. Even after your cast or brace is removed, you may need to continue limiting your activity. Usually, by the time the bone is strong enough, the muscles, for instance in your leg or arm, will be weak because of prolonged fixation. Your ligaments may feel "stiff" as well. You will need a period of rehabilitation that involves exercises and gradually increasing activity before involved tissues will perform their functions normally and the healing process is complete.



This week's discussion on the management of bone fractures is courtesy of **Dr. Reynante C. Mirano**. Dr. Mirano, Doctor Ryan to most, is MEDICard's accredited ER specialist at the San Juan De Dios Hospital in Pasay City. He finished his studies in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and took his residency training for Emergency Medicine at Makati Medical Center. He also holds a Masters degree in Hospital Service Administration at Ateneo De Manila University. Dr. Mirano is also a Fellow of the Philippine College of Emergency Medicine and Acute Care.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard is the first HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asia Pacific Region to be ISO CERTIFIED

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 9/F Sagittarius Bldg, H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 TRUNKLINE: 867-2020 • FAX NO.: 894-5720; 810-3856 TEXT: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or to 4627 (Smart and Talk N' Text) • INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY SALES: 818-2161 CORPORATE SALES: 848-6452; 848-6456; 848-6451 E-MAIL: inquiry@medicardphils.com; feedback@medicardphils.com WEBSITE: www.medicardphils.com

---

91-year-old is born to run

RAYMUNDO San Juan, a Milo Marathon veteran is still running at age 91.

The former Malacañang employee was proud to be the oldest runner at the 28th National Milo Marathon.

He ran the 10-km race in the Manila eliminations and the 5-km race in both the Baguio eliminations and finals in Manila.

At the finals, San Juan took no notice of the faster runners. His goal, after all, was simply to show that anyone, at any age, could run and even compete. He also wanted to underscore running's many health benefits.

San Juan, who finished the race, said running had made him very fit. He rarely got sick and his joints were like a well-oiled machine. He plans to continue running as long as he is able.

San Juan encouraged other people to take up the sport "so you will all stay healthy and fit even if you're as old as me."

San Juan had participated in Milo marathons since it began 28 years ago. The Manila resident traveled to other parts of the country to run in elimination rounds. A popular and regular fixture in the running circuit, many clubs invite him to join their fun runs.

Aside from running, a big part of his life, San Juan's fitness regimen included healthy eating, and a morning jog around his neighborhood everyday.

His late wife shared his love for running and used to join him in his morning ritual. Now his children are also into running.

LOLO Raymundo San Juan, still running at 91

Serendra
Welcomes our balikbayans.

Visit the Serendra Pavilion and avail of a FREE Mind and Body Harmony Massage at The Suriya Spa!

BALIKBAYAN PROMO
Cut out this ad and present it together with your valid passport when you go to the Serendra Pavilion.

Qualified balikbayans must meet the ff. conditions:

Date of arrival should be between 1 November 2004 and 31 January 2005; and residency abroad should be at least 6 months prior to latest date of arrival in the Philippines.

The first 100 visitors will receive a voucher for a FREE Mind and Body Harmony Massage at The Suriya Spa, 3rd Floor Glorietta 3, Ayala Center.

Only one (1) voucher will be awarded per balikbayan.

The vouchers are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.

Come and experience your family's sanctuary in the city!

Name:

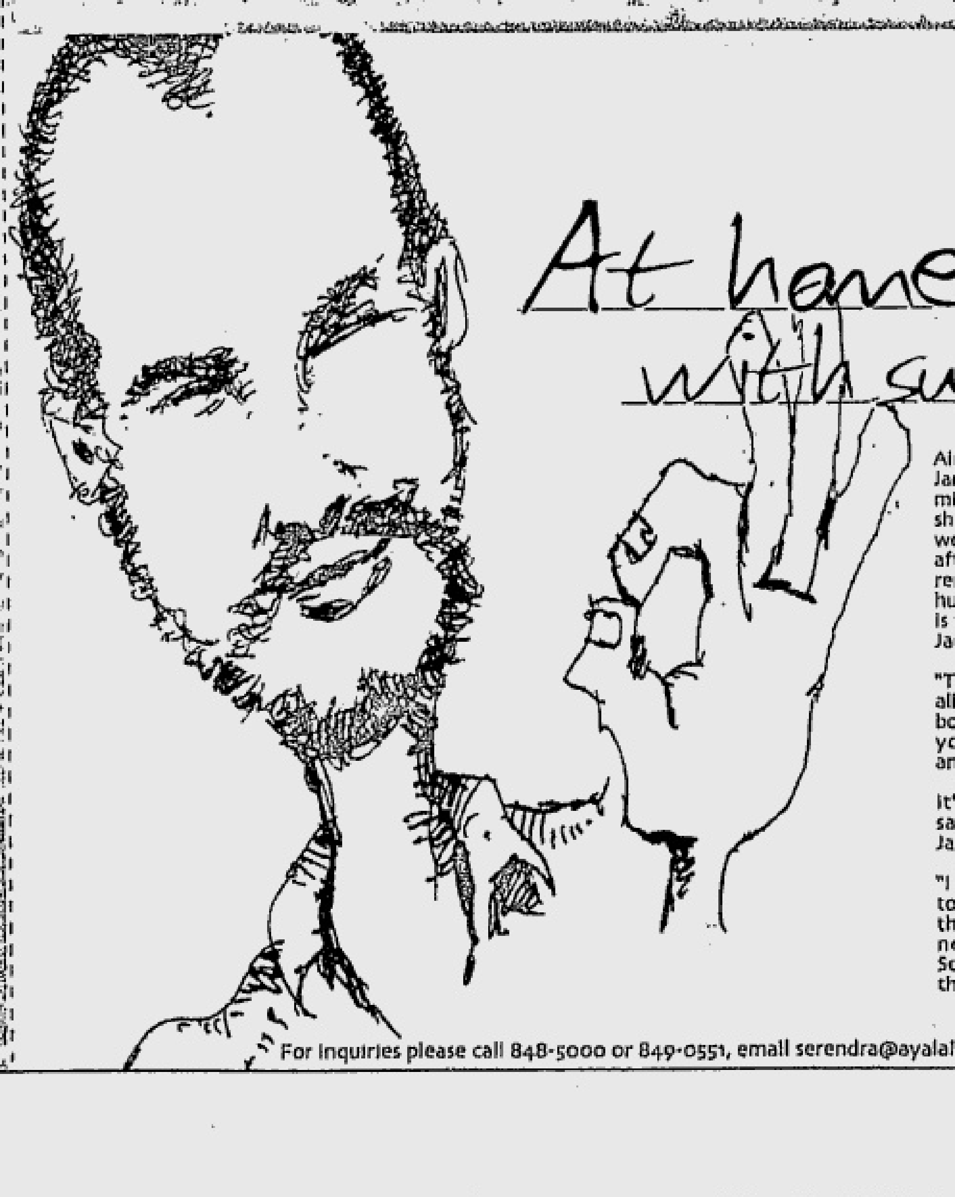
Address:

Tel. No.:

Place of origin:

Email Address:

Promo runs from 15 December 2004 to 31 January 2005.


At home with success.

Aiming for the stars is second-nature to James Montecastro. After sealing a multi-million dollar distribution contract for his shipping firm, after snagging the business world spotlight from the usual suspects, after five years of expansion, education, reinvention and evolution, James is still hungry for more. "The day you slow down is the day everyone else catches up," says James.

"That's why the idea of compromise is alien to me," he continues. "Compromise bogs you down. Distracts you from what you already know you really want anyway."

It's that same single-mindedness, that same clarity of thought that brought James to our doorstep.

"I didn't want to "settle down," I wanted to be mobile, within striking distance of the business world. But I also knew I needed to prepare for the future. Serendra was a sublime solution to all that."

Accessibility to hectares of landscaped gardens and sprawling greenery was the first thing to catch Mr. Montecastro's eye. "The last thing I'd want is to feel cramped. There's no point in paying millions only to end up claustrophobic."

"And I love how much pride they take in their work. Would you believe they even have layers of inspection before they turn over even a single unit? It's a work ethic after my own heart!"

"Of course it's a bit pricier than some other projects by some other developers," James muses "but nothing truly excellent ever comes cheap."

Serendra
An AYALA Community

For inquiries please call 848-5000 or 849-0551, email serendra@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.serendra.com. HLURB No. 10412, 10464, and 10482.

Nurturing year-old babies

WYETH Philippines Inc.'s Promil Kid is a nutritionally balanced growing-up supplement specially formulated to boost the mental and physical growth of children one year onwards.

Promil Kid is packed with ProGifted ingredients to address the specific requirements of kids one year old and above. It contains LNA/LA (linolenic/linoleic acid), essential fatty acids that help in brain development.

Promil Kid is fortified with v itamins A, C and D plus calcium. Vitamin A is needed for healthy skin and cell development, vitamin C for the immune system and growth as well as for iron absorption, and vtamin D for calcium metabolism. Calcium, on the other hand, is the key to stronger bones.

ENTERTAINMENT Metro
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Text us feedback: Inquirer ent name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Editor **Louie C. Camino**
Assistant Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

A RIVER RUNS through his dream movie. Cesar Montano (right) and his younger brother Rhommel.

IN LOVE AND WAR. Judy Ann Santos and Raymart Santiago of "Aishite Imasu 1941"

AND MOTHER LILY'S 4 MAKES 8

Parade of hopefuls starts with 'Mano,' ends with 'Sigaw'

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Val Handumon

AFTER HE attended parades of stars in cities like Baguio, Lucena, Cebu and Davao since Dec. 15 for the 30th Metro Manila Film Festival, actor/director/producer Cesar Montano said he was already very relaxed by the time he joined the festival's "Parade of Stars" in Manila on Christmas Eve.

"What I'm more concerned now is how the moviegoers would react to the film," said Cesar from the float of "Panaghoy sa Suba" during the Friday afternoon parade. "If this turns out to be a success, this could encourage other producers to create more Visayan movies."

Cesar produced and stars in "Panaghoy sa Suba" (Call of the River), which he also filmed entirely in Cebuano, with his province's pristine Loboc River as backdrop.

"Tomorrow [Christmas Day], I'll try to visit as many theaters as I can and monitor the audience turnout," he added.

Unconfirmed reports the day after Christmas claimed that "Panaghoy" was among the last of the eight festival movies in terms of box-office earnings.

Friday afternoon, the floats of "Mano Po 3: My Love" and "So Happy Together" had to detour early on in the four-hour "Parade of Stars" because the streets at the Araneta Cen-

PARADE/4

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinemas! Cinemas!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movie tickets for sale at the Ground Floor Fiesta Market and Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

① The Polar Express
② National Treasure
③ George and the Dragon
④ Pasiyam

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

⑤ Honey
⑥ Harold and Kumar
⑦ Bad Santa

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7516

YOUR LAST CHANCE FOR THE BEST BARGAINS THIS YEAR!

Araneta Center

WEEKLONG SALE

UP TO 70% OFF on selected items

Dec. 26 to Jan. 2

FREE FENG-SHUI PLANNER FOR EVERY P1,000 PURCHASE
WITH OVER P1,000 WORTH OF COUPONS!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-826 Series of 2004

Ali MALL FarmersPlaza ValueStation

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-883 Series of 2004

17:28 gets you 'Cozy'

HAPPY FEELING inspired by 17:28's first album from Viva Records.

COZY.

The word makes you think of warm nights spent cuddling in the couch with someone special. This is the happy feeling you get from listening to "Cozy," the new studio album by the all-male group 17:28, and their first under Viva Records.

The album is a collection of love songs highlighted by the carrier single "Sana Muli," written by Vehnee Saturno and arranged by Arnold Buena. The carrier single has an accompanying video directed by Mae Cruz, who also directed the video of "Last Love Song," which the group interpreted during the last "Himig Handog" songwriting competition.

Most of the other cuts—"Close Your Eyes," "Still the Same," "I'm So Sorry," "Come Home for Me Tonight," and "Unexpectedly"—were written by 17:28 members Jonard Yanzon, Gian Magdangal and Chino Alfonso.

The title track was penned by former member Joaquin Valdes, who left the group to take up Architecture at the University of the Philippines.

Also in the collection are "S.H.B.G. (Sweet Honey Baby Girl)" by Mike Luis, "Mahal Pa Rin Kita," by Cymbee Antiporda and Mavic Concepcion, "Ganyan ang Pag-Ibig Ko," by Erick Sta. Maria, "Kahit Kunwari Lang," by Jay Marquez-Brian Cua, and one revival, "I Believe in You and Me," arranged by Marc Lopez, with vocal arrangement by Moy Ortiz of The Company.

Originally packaged as a boy band, 17:28 first came to the attention of the public when the group was handpicked by ABS-CBN to interpret a song during the finals night of "Jam: Himig Handog sa Kabataang Pilipino" songwriting competition.

Although the song did not win the grand prize, they reaped a slew of other awards in the 2002 Katha Awards, including Best Dance Recording, Best Dance Vocal Performance by a Duo/Group, and Best Pop Vocal Performance by a Duo/Group.

Although not a religious group, 17:28 got its name from the Book of Acts, chapter 17, verse 28, which reads: "For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."

Last January, 17:28, managed by Stages Inc., signed up with Viva Records, which immediately set to work on "Cozy."

The album is now available in CDs and cassettes at all major record stores and outlets nationwide.

Putumayo world music launched

GALAXY Records recently introduced Putumayo world music to lifestyle enthusiasts in a successful launch at the Shangri-La Plaza Grand Atrium.

The musical event featured our own Afro-Latin bands Puro Ritmo and Wahijuara, the ethnic-inspired Makiling Ensemble, and reggae artists Tropical Depression and Budoy Marabiles of the Junior Kilat.

Putumayo is a record label that offers diverse music from all over the globe. Its repertoire blends old with new, and east with west in such familiar genres as reggae, salsa and the blues, plus exotic musical styles from the Mediterranean, Middle East, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Established in 1993, Putumayo is now known for its upbeat and melodic compilations of great international rhythms. The label grew out of Putumayo Clothing Company, founded by Dan Storper.

Storper's vision to establish a global company and lifestyle brand turned into CD distribution in more than 40 countries. By April 2000, the label had opened its first international office in Holland. It is now being distributed in 20 countries.

Today, distribution covers countries in South and Central America, Africa, Asia and Australia.

Contrary to pre-conceived notions, the label caters not only to adults, but also to different personalities and age groups—the young and hip, mature and sophisticated, even children. In the late 2002, it launched Putumayo Kids, to introduce children to multicultural resources through fun, upbeat world music.

Putumayo CDs are available at Tower Records, Music One, O Music Video, Odyssey Records and Astroplus.

SHOW STOPPER

Fun with DIY Looney boxes

LET YOUR kids have an adventure during the holidays with their favorite Looney Tunes characters in Adventurer's Do-It-Yourself boxes.

The fun boxes are not just toys. They also help educate children by allowing them to play with colors with the half-colored boxes.

Kids can put their things inside the boxes to have a clutter-free environment, or use the boxes to wrap gifts.

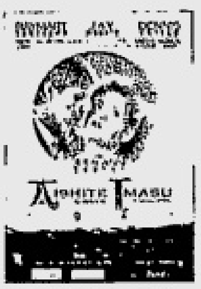
They can also turn these boxes into miniature lanterns by adding a lantern light (sold separately).

Available in Bugs Bunny, Tazmanian Devil, Sylvester and Tweety character designs, the Adventurer Fun Box is sold at all National Book store branches and other leading department stores and wholesalers nationwide.

SM CINEMA moviETIME

VILMA SANTOS
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
MANO PO III My Love
moviepick

OPENS THIS WEEK



AISHITE IMASU

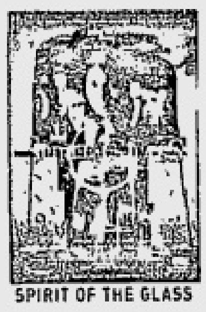
ENTENG KABISOTE

SO HAPPY TOGETHER

LATIKMAN

MANO PO

SIGAW



SPIRIT OF THE GLASS

PANAGHOY SA SUBA

NOW SHOWING

THE PODIUM CINEMA
For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
1 MANO PO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 MANO PO
2 PANAGHOY SASUBA
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 AISHITE IMASU
7 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
8 AISHITE IMASU
9 LASTIKMAN
10 SIGAW
11 MANO PO
12 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

sm city fairview
1 SIGAW
2 LASTIKMAN
3 MANO PO
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
6 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 LASTIKMAN
9 AISHITE IMASU
10 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
11 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
12 MANO PO

sm city manila
1 MANO PO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 AISHITE IMASU
4 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5 SIGAW
6 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
7 ENTENG KABISOTE
8 SIGAW
9 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
10 AISHITE IMASU
11 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
12 LASTIKMAN

sm city sta. mesa
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 MANO PO
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 AISHITE IMASU
5 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 AISHITE IMASU
7 LASTIKMAN
8 SIGAW
9 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
10 SIGAW

sm city southmall
1 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 LASTIKMAN
4 ENTENG KABISOTE
5 MANO PO
6 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
7 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
8 AISHITE IMASU
9 SIGAW
10 MANO PO

sm city north edsa
1 MANO PO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
6 LASTIKMAN
7 AISHITE IMASU
8 SIGAW

sm cinema tutuban
1 LASTIKMAN
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 MANO PO

sm supercenter sucat
1 MANO PO
2 ENTENG KABISOTE
3 AISHITE IMASU
4 SIGAW

sm city bicutan
1 SPIRIT OF THEGLASS
2 PANAGHOY SSA SUBA
3 SO HAPPY TOGETHER
4 LASTIKMAN

Movies are subject to change without prior notice • For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

CALL! DIAL 833-9999 FOR INFORMATION AND MOVIE LISTINGS, MTRCB RATINGS AND SCREENING SCHEDULES.

SURF! VISIT US AT www.smcinema.com FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA.

RESERVE-A-SEAT
Call 636-6800
for SM Megamall Cinema 1
SM CINEMA

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.7851 loc. 171
PREMIERE THEATRE (DOLBY)
1 (DOLBY) MANO PO 3 GP
2 (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE GP
3 (DOLBY) AISHITE IMASU PG13
4 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS PG13

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO
tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) BAD SIGAW
2. AISHITE IMASU 1941
3. HAPPY TOGETHER
4. SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
5. ENTENG KABISOTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 (SDDS) RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DOLBY) RESERVE
7 (DTS) RESERVE
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MANO PO - 3
2 ENTENG KABISOTE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MANO PO - 3
2 HAPPY TOGETHER
3 AISHITE IMASU 1941
4 (DTS) SIGAW

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) MANO PO
2 (SDDS) ENTENG KABISOTE
3 (DTS) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 GOLD (DTS) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) AISHITE IMASU 1941
6 GOLD (SDDS) SIGAW
7 GOLD (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
8 LASTIKMAN
9 HAPPY TOGETHER
10 LASTIKMAN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 HAPPY TOGETHER
3 LASTIKMAN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 LASTIKMAN
4 AISHITE IMASU 1941

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) SIGAW
2 AISHITE IMASU 1941

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 (DOLBY) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 (DOLBY) ENTENG KABISOTE
4 (DOLBY) SIGAW

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) SIGAW
4 (SDDS) PANAGHOY SA SUBA
5 (DTS) SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
6 (Dolby) ENTENG KABISOTE
7 (Dolby) MANO PO 3

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LASTIKMAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) AISHITE IMASU 1941
5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
4 HAPPY TOGETHER
5 (DOLBY) LASTIKMAN
6 SIGAW

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Do you know were Blanvil is?

BLANVIL CAFE, Salcedo Village's pioneer café and watering hole, livens up the dining and entertainment scene this side of the city with "Jam Session" at its new location at the LPL Center.

From Wednesday to Friday, jam with the lounge singers and keyboard artists while enjoying the same old good food that has endeared Blanvil to Makati's business class.

Feel free to play the keyboard, the guitar, box drum or your instrument of choice. The stage-shy yet vocally gifted can sing the night away in the videoke on weekdays, enhanced by state-of-the-art sound equipment.

Treat yourself to Blanvil's liquor promo of three beers or two ladies' cocktails for only P75. Connoisseurs can bring their own bottle of wine and spirits without paying corkage. Try the P110 light lunch or the P200 eat-all-you-can from P170 to P200, both with free soup, dessert and bottomless Boyd gourmet coffee.

Blanvil is at LPL Center, 130 LP Leviste St. (formerly Alfaro), Salcedo Village. Call 8672124 or 8103078.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MANO PO 3 GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	ENTENG KABISOTE GP 12:30,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS PG13 12:45,2:55,5:05,7:15,9:30
LASTIKMAN R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	AISHITE IMASU 1941 PG13 1:20,3:35,5:50,8:05,10:20	SIGAW PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10

MATINEE SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 P.M. - P80.00 - MON. - FRI.

star group of cinemas movie guide

IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Lastikman
4 Sigaw
5 Panaghoy sa Suba

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Enteng Kabisote
2 Spirit of the Glass
3 Panaghoy sa Suba
4 Happy Together
5 Lastikman
6 Sigaw

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 Sigaw
2 Aishite Masu

Everyday Family Day! @ Metropolis Cinema Get Free Toms World Tokens for every ticket purchase

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	PANAGHOY SA SUBA 12:25, 3:10, 5:50 8:30, 11:10 PG 13
2	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 12:25, 2:55, 5:20 7:45, 10:10 PG 13
3	ENTENG KABISOTE 12:30, 3:10, 5:50 8:30, 11:10 GP
4	SIGAW 12:45, 3:15, 5:45 8:15, 10:45 PG 13

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented! DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 **MANO PO 3** 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10 **GP**

CINEMA 2 **LASTIKMAN** 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10 **GP**

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① MANO PO 3
FS 12:20PM, 2:45PM, 5:10PM, 7:35PM
LMF 10PM (GP)

② ENTENG KABISOTE
(GP)

③ AISHITE IMASU 1941
FS 12:40PM, 3:00PM, 5:20PM, 7:40PM, LMF 10PM (PG-13)

④ SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
FS 11:40AM, 2PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, LMF 9PM

2004 MetroManila Filmfest
in Cinemas 1 to 4
December 26, 2004 to January 7, 2005
In celebration of the Filipino Filmmaker's Creativity

Special Promo Price
P120

Special promo price may not be used or combined with other Shang Cineplex discount promotions. No additional 20% for senior citizens discount on top of promo price.

For inquiries, call 633-2227 or 633-7851 loc. 171

Shangri-La Plaza

Araneta Center LEISURE GUIDE

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10

MOVIE-GOING LIKE NO OTHER
ALL THEATERS • ULTRA SOUND • FULL STADIUM SEATING
Gateway SINEPLEX*10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
NOW OPEN!

1	SIGAW 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15
2	AISHITE IMASU 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15
3	PANAGHOY SA SUBA 11:35 2:00 4:25 6:50 9:15
4	LASTIKMAN 10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10
5	SO HAPPY TOGETHER 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15
6	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15
7	MANO PO 3 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
8	ENTENG KABISOTE 11:35 2:00 4:25 6:50 9:15
9	LASTIKMAN 11:55 2:15 4:35 6:55 9:15
10	Opens Soon!

ALI MALL CINEMAS

3	Dolby	SIGAW 11:30 1:40 3:50 6:00 8:10
4	SDDS	PANAGHOY SA SUBA 10:20 12:45 3:10 5:35 8:00
5	dts	SPIRIT OF THE GLASS 11:30 1:40 3:50 6:00 8:10
6	Dolby	ENTENG KABISOTE 10:20 12:45 3:10 5:35 8:00
7	Dolby	MANO PO 3 11:05 1:20 3:35 5:50 8:05

ARANETA COLISEUM

Disney On Ice PRINCESS CLASSICS

SHOWTIME

Dec. 28 Tue 6pm
Dec. 29 Wed 2pm 6pm
Dec. 30 Thu 2pm 6pm
Jan. 1 Sat 1pm 4:30pm 8pm
Jan. 2 Sun 2pm 6pm
Jan. 3 Mon 6pm

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL

OPEN DAILY
Mon-Fri 2pm to 10pm
Sat-Sun & Hol. 10am to 11pm

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SALAT SA LIGAYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	AISHITE MASU (1941)
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3&4	NATIONAL TREASURE / BRIDGET JONES / SPIDERMAN 2 / SHREK 2
PREMIERE THEATRE	THE INCREDIBLES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KALABIT
CINEMA-2	SALAT
CINEMA-3	ONE MISSED CALL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	POLAR EXPRESS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-6	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HAROLD & KUMAR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BAD SANTA
CINEMA-12	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-14	HONEY
CINEMA-15	B CUZ OF U
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	NATIONAL TREASURE
CINEMA-1	PASIYAM
CINEMA-2	BRIDGET JONES
CINEMA-4	POLAR EXPRESS
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

• METRO MANILA CINEMAS •

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 ENTENG KABISOTE • THX	6 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	7 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
3 LASTIKMAN	8 MANO PO 3
4 SIGAW	9 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
5 AISHITE IMASU	10 MANO PO 3

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

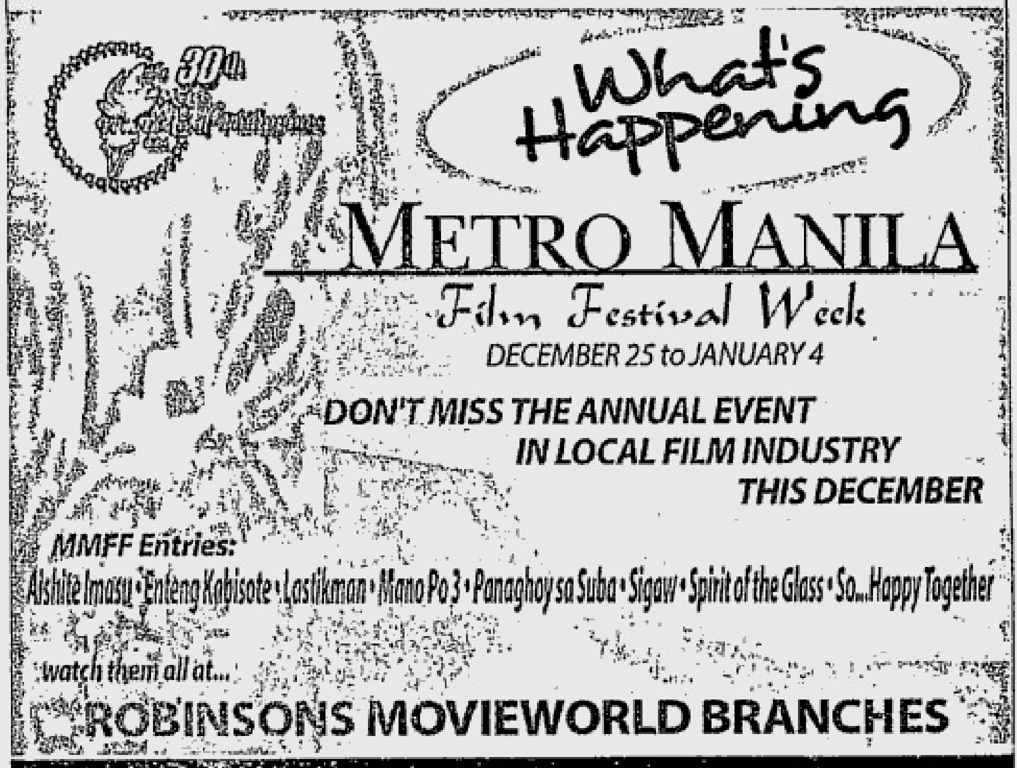
1 ENTENG KABISOTE	
2 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER	5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
3 AISHITE IMASU	6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
4 LASTIKMAN	7 MANO PO 3

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280

1 MANO PO 3	5 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 ENTENG KABISOTE	6 LASTIKMAN
3 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	7 AISHITE IMASU
4 PANAGHOY SA SUBA	8 SIGAW

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 SIGAW	5 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 AISHITE IMASU	6 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS
3 LASTIKMAN	7 ENTENG KABISOTE
4 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER	8 MANO PO 3



What's Happening
METRO MANILA
Film Festival Week
DECEMBER 25 to JANUARY 4
DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL EVENT IN LOCAL FILM INDUSTRY THIS DECEMBER
MMFF Entries:
Aishite Imasu • Enteng Kabisote • Lastikman • Mano Po 3 • Panaghoy sa Suba • Sigaw • Spirit of the Glass • So...Happy Together
watch them all at...
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD BRANCHES

PIONEER 687-5378

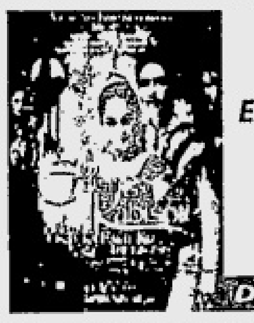
1 MANO PO 3	3 SO...HAPPY TOGETHER
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	4 SIGAW

Citisquare MALABON 288-0986 / 2575

1 ENTENG KABISOTE	3 PANAGHOY SA SUBA
2 SPIRIT OF THE GLASS	4 LASTIKMAN

CAINTA 240-4661

1 MANO PO 3	3 LASTIKMAN
2 ENTENG KABISOTE	4 SIGAW



UpClose and Personal
with the cast of
Enteng Kabisote and Spirit of the Glass
at Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA
Cinema Lobby • 4:00 PM

DEC. 28 (Tuesday)

DEC. 27 (Monday)

MOTHER'S THIRD of the "Mano Po" series

A BELLYFUL of Rica Peralejo, "Spirit of the Glass"

Parade of hopefuls starts with 'Mano,' ends with 'Sigaw'

From page 1

ter in Quezon City were too narrow.

The parade began at 1:55 p.m. at the People Power Monument on Edsa and headed north to Cubao. All eight floats were to turn right on P. Tuazon to Ali Mall, and cross Edsa again to Quezon Avenue. But the first two floats joined the parade only when it reached Araneta Avenue.

The parade passed through Magsaysay Avenue in Sta. Mesa, Manila and proceeded to Quirino Avenue and on to Roxas Boulevard. It ended in front of the Aliw Theater at the CCP Complex.

Leading the parade was the pagoda-inspired float of MaQ Productions' "Mano Po 3," complete with dragon dancers.

"Mano Po 3" stars Vilma Santos, Eddie Garcia, Christopher de Leon, Sheryl Cruz, Angelica Panganiban, Karylle, John Prats, Carlo Aquino, Patrick Garcia were all in Chinese dresses and shirts.

Joel Lamangan directed "Mano Po 3" as well as "Aishite Imasu 1941" for BasFilms and "So Happy Together" for Regal Entertainment. All three as well as "Sigaw," directed by Yam Laranas, are said to be productions of Regal's Lily Monteverde, which other producers had complained about but the Metro Manila Development Authority, in charge of the selection, had ignored.

After "ManoPo 3" came the colorful float of "So Happy Together," bearing Kris Aquino, Eric Quizon, Mark Herras, Jennylyn Mercado, Rainier Castillo, Yasmien Kurdi and Jay-R. Kris wore a revealing violet gown that matched the float's pink-and-purple motif.

"Enteng Kabisote" was next. It took one whole month for production designer Mitoy Sta. Ana to build the float, according to producer Orly Ilacad of OctoArts Films.

Vic, who plays the title role, was with his on-screen wife Kristine Hermosa, whose character is named Faye Kabisote.

People could hardly recognize Epi Quizon, Bing Loyzaga and January Isaac, who all wore wearing their colorful screen costumes.

Green and black were the dominant colors on Viva Film's "Lastikman" float. It carried its lead actor Mark Bautista, as well as singer-actress Sarah Geronimo. Cherie Gil, who plays the villain Lastika, was not around. She reportedly complained to Viva Films for giving her what she said was less than the billing she deserved.

Designed by architect

The "Panaghoy sa Suba" float was the work of architect Ismael Reyes.

"The float is very Filipino," Reyes pointed out. "I went to Bohol, where the film was shot, to have a look at how residents near the river actually live."

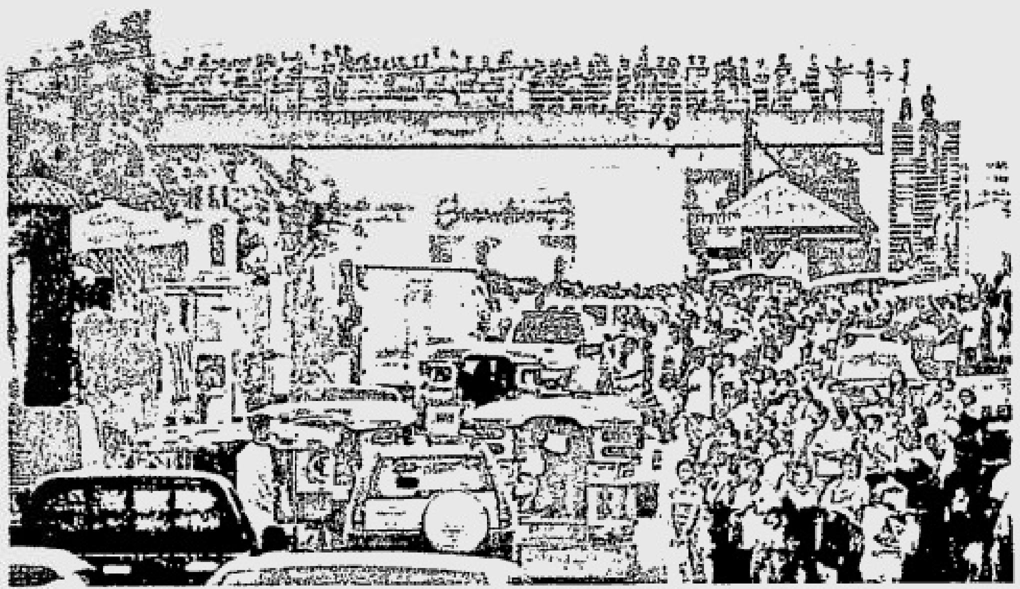
Only Cesar and American actor Phil Anthony were on board the "Panaghoy" float. Cesar's leading lady, Juliana Palermo, was on board another float created by Smart Telecommunications, one of the sponsors of the event.

Production designer Joey Luna had been working on the concept of the float of "Aishite Imasu 1941" since the movie started filming in September.

"During the war, the Japanese used old houses as garrisons," said the production designer. "I built a veranda for the actors to stand on. Under the veranda is the garrison where people dressed in Japanese costumes would be standing."

CHEERFUL CAST of eerie movie "Spirit of the Glass" is led by Alessandra de Rossi (with mike).

THE COLOR PURPLE makes Kris Aquino stand out, with Eric Quizon (right), Rainier Castillo, Jennylyn Mercado, Yasmien Kurdi and Mark Herras of "So Happy Together."



FANTASTIC MAN Vic Sotto (left) on board the "Enteng Kabisote" float, one of the eight that the big crowd (left) looks up to.

Ouija board and R&B

"Aishite Imasu 1941" actors Raymart Santiago, Dennis Trillo and Jay Manalo all wore their movie costumes, while Judy Ann Santos was in casual contemporary clothes.

"Except for the long hours of driving to get to the location of the shooting, I enjoyed doing this film," said Raymart. "I just hope people would appreciate it, too."

On top of Canary Films' "Spirit of the Glass" float was a huge Ouija board. Ouija boards became very popular in the 1960s. One of these is what the group of Alessandra de Rossi, Rica Peralejo, Dingdong Dantes, Ciara Sotto and Jay Cuenca uses to call on the spirits, played by Marvin Agustin and Anna Capri, in the movie directed by Jose Javier Reyes.

While the "Spirit" float did look eerie, none of the movie's stars matched the look. They were all singing and dancing to R&B tunes that were played throughout the parade.

Although the "Sigaw" float came in last, people still greeted the stars with much enthusiasm. After all, Aguiluz (Richard Gutierrez) and Alwina (Angel Locsin) of the GMA 7 hit series "Mulawin" were on board. So were their costars Jomari Yllana, Iza Calzado and Ella Guevara.

Toy Symphony, Pido in Discovery Suites New Year's Eve countdown

TOY SYMPHONY

SHOW TIME

TO WELCOME the new year, Discovery Suites' New Year's Eve countdown party presents Toy Symphony and Pido "Just Had to be New Year's Eve."

Toy Symphony has singers Elke Saison and OJ Olaguer, guitarist Kashli Saison, bassist Tabs Tabunar, drummer Stanley Selludo and keyboardist Cid Sicam. Known for their impressive vocal range, Elke and OJ are at their best when they're doing R&B, pop, soul and dance music.

Pido Lalimarmo is a familiar, good-looking face in the live band circuit. Already strumming hits on his guitar when he was 17, Pido became an original member of Side A in the late '80s before he formed the band Artstart and made the sweet favorite, "Danielle." After being part of the group Anthem, he reemerged in the acoustic scene with the band Take One. He has since gone solo and recently launched his own album, "Bittersweet."

"Just Had to be New Year's Eve" at Discovery Suites is a must-experience, yearend celebration presented in cooperation with Mossimo, 105.1 Crossover and Wave 89.1.

Admission to see a thoroughly captivating musical tandem is P1,500 inclusive of P300 minimum consumable on beverage.

For ticket inquiries, call 635-2222.

PIDO

From dusk till dawn, Toni, Ryan host Makati street party

TONI Gonzaga and Ryan Agoncillo will lead revelers in welcoming 2005 as the television stars host the Makati New Year's Eve Countdown Party on Friday, Dec. 31, at the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Ayala Avenue.

The festivity is a dusk-to-dawn street party, highlighted by musical fireworks and a laser lights extravaganza never before seen in Metro Manila.

The country's best bands and singers such as Parokya ni Edgar, Bamboo, Kitchie Nadal, Ella Mae Saison, Barbie's Cradle, Asin and a lot more will be on stage with Gonzaga and Agoncillo to entertain the revelers, who will also have to join games and win raffle prizes.

The Makati New Year's Eve Countdown is presented by Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay and the City Government of Makati.

Other sponsors include the Ayala Land, the Makati Commercial Estates Association (Macea), Ayala Center, Manila Bulletin and SM Prime Holdings.

The world's best pyrotechnicians will put up the fireworks display, which they have prepared especially for the Makati event. A laser lights show will be synchronized with the fireworks show at the stroke of midnight.

"We want our constituents to welcome the New Year with a bang, but without the hazards of using firecrackers," Mayor Binay said. "We also want to start a tradition that our residents and visitors can look forward to every yearend."

Foods, drinks, music, dancing and pocket events await the partygoers. Street magicians, acrobats, jogglers, fire eaters, clowns, henna tattoo artists and other street performers will mingle with the crowd to give away party items.

The celebration will start at 5 p.m. and continue until 3 a.m. the next day.

Dance to live band music amid big bikes, and win a bike

THE ROCK and retro band Beats and Pieces takes center stage at Bykes Café and Dance Studio as the entertainment venue bids 2004 goodbye and welcomes the New Year in a grand dance party on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Meanwhile, continue to enjoy the post-Christmas performances gigs six days a week in Bykes Cafe's Latin and retro bands.

Spend Monday with Men in Gold, and let Sabor Latino and Batch 69 fire up your humdrum Tuesday.

Cool Change and the true-blue R&B band Rhythm in Blue bring a cool change to your lazy Wednesday.

Onda Latina sizzles on Thursday.

Enjoy the superb music and the good food and get a chance to win a handsome Italian-made Aprilia Scarabeo 500cc scooter in the bar's raffle promo by buying a consumable R & R Card worth P600.

Bykes Café, Metro Manila's only big-bike showroom and dance studio, is at La Fuerza Building II, 2241 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City (near Mantrade). Dancing starts as early as 2 p.m. while shows start at 9 p.m.

For inquiries, call 750-0622 to 23.